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Kinnock remained the one obstacle that the party he reformed could not jump

Leader who took Labour to the brink of a great victory

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

AMID Labour's writhings in the misery of a fourth successive election defeat we forget how close the party came to a victory which would have required a bigger swing than any since the war. A contest which happened a week earlier, before the triumphalist Sheffield rally, just might have given us a different result. That surely was Neil Kinnock's achievement.

His tragedy was that, having given his party the organisation to fashion an election victory, having restored its will to win and belief that it could do so, he himself remained the one hurdle which Labour could not jump. Thanks partly to the tabloid press, Mr Kinnock continued to drag well behind his party in the opinion polls. He never succeeded in throwing off the common belief that he was too lightweight for No 10. But without Mr Kinnock, his colleagues ask, where would Labour be today?

John Smith holds instinctively the pro-European, multilateralist positions which Labour officially holds today. Mr Kinnock had to bear the opprobrium of publicly changing his mind. But would someone who started on the right have been able to move the party across the spectrum? Would anyone else have had the tenacity which Mr Kinnock showed in marginalising Militant?

When he took over as leader in 1983, Mr Kinnock knew that Labour had lost its hold on the pulse of the working man. It had only 27 per cent of the national vote and its ranks had been decimated by departures to the SDP. Margaret Thatcher had captured the C2s. Mr Kinnock

worked first to give his party the practical means to win an election. No other party leader has shown the same interest in party organisation or achieved the personal dominance over both the national executive and the shadow cabinet. Like Mrs Thatcher, he did not have the time for "distractions" from those who disagreed.

After 1987, when Labour won the campaign but lost the election, the lessons were clear. Labour was suffering still from four main handicaps: the antics of the loony left, outdated policies on defence and Europe, trades union domination and the public perceptions of Mr Kinnock himself. With relentless determination and formidable self-discipline, Mr Kinnock went after them all. The two-year policy review made Labour a party to which social democrats could safely return. Labour became almost overnight a pro-EC party and edged round slowly and painfully to a rejection of unilateralism.

Mr Kinnock took on the left, notably with the memorable speech at the Bournemouth conference in 1985 when he lacerated Liverpool's Militant leaders. He reformed the re-selection process, freeing Labour MPs to fight national battles in the Commons instead of obsessively guarding their home bases against small pockets of extremists. And he began detaching the union armlock.

No previous leader would have imagined that the left could have been marginalised as he sidelined them. Neil Kinnock gained the support to exercise hitherto unthought-of powers, such as the crucial imposition of by-

election candidates. Contrast the morale-sapping loss of Greenwich in 1987 with the successes in Vale of Glamorgan, Monmouth, and Mid Staffs in the last parliament. He secured the assent of the union movement for its own near-emasculatation in Labour's affairs.

Leading Labour, a party never too sure that it wants to be led, for the longest stint this century was a sapping task. It was all the tougher for Mr Kinnock, because he faced across the despatch box for much of that time the most dominant figure in post-war politics.

At first he was no match for Mrs Thatcher. But slowly he learnt to ask shorter questions, to excise the dependent clauses. By constantly harping on their differences, he helped to open the breach between Mrs Thatcher and Nigel Lawson which weakened the Tories. He made her wriggle occasionally on social issues, and when John Major took over the experienced Mr Kinnock won a fair share of the twice-weekly battles.

Yet he never succeeded in convincing the British public that he was ready for No 10. Patronised by the Oxbridge establishment, subject to whispering campaigns in his own ranks, savaged by the Tory tabloids, he worked under handicap. Against those handicaps he had the courage to come back and back, after the 1987 election defeat, after the 1988 crisis of confidence, after the Tory leadership change saw the Tories soar into the lead in opinion polls again. And he almost made it all the way.

Neil Kinnock demonstrated real political courage. But in the end his changes of front on so many important issues made the Tories' task too easy. He did not quite enough to shake off the union embrace and his modernisation of the party lacked a crisp enough presentation of the alternative vision of society which Labour was offering. In the processing Labour's flavour was lost. In his determination to be taken seriously as a statesman he shed some of the warmth that was his first appeal.

He goes down as one of the nearly men of British politics. But none of us who have enjoyed his conference oratory at its peak will ever forget Neil Kinnock in full flow.

Patricia Hewitt, page 12
Leading article, page 13



Meeting the challenge: John Smith arriving at Heathrow airport yesterday, as the contest for the Labour party leadership begins in earnest

Hattersley kept his instincts

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock's resignation overshadowed the departure from front-line politics of Labour's most experienced frontbencher. Roy Hattersley was one of only two Labour MPs to have served in a cabinet. He will now support the other, John Smith, as Mr Kinnock's successor.

Mr Hattersley, who was prices secretary in the Callaghan government and deputy foreign secretary in the preceding Wilson government,

is an old-style Gaitskellite who retained his egalitarian instincts through the revisionism of the Kinnock years. During his first parliament in opposition he served as shadow home secretary. During the first Kinnock term he appeared less certain in the role of shadow chancellor, and in the past five years he has returned to his favoured position of shadowing the Home Office. He would have been home secretary. In spite

of his long association with Roy Jenkins, Bill Rodgers and David Owen, he never showed any inclination to join them in the SDP exodus. His loyalty to Labour meant there was never any likelihood of him doing so.

In the past year, as Labour appeared to be nearing its goal of power, Mr Hattersley enjoyed a renaissance, battling good humouredly with television interviewers and preaching Labour's cause.

'My action is an essential act of leadership'

The full text of Mr Kinnock's statement reads:

In the wake of the election defeat, I am taking action which, in my judgment as leader, will serve in the best interests of the Labour party. I trust that members and supporters will understand and support the course which I am going to follow.

The decisions which I have made will require rapid change. Those decisions have not, however, been taken hastily. They result from rational consideration which I have given over a period of time to the future of the Labour party. I will not be seeking re-election as leader of the Labour party. To ensure that new leadership elections can be completed without delay, I will be proposing to the national executive committee meeting tomorrow that the elections be held as quickly as proper organisation allows. The elections will, therefore, take place in the second half of June. My resignation will take effect from the date of the elections. The deputy leader, Roy Hattersley, shares my view of the course which must be followed and will act accordingly.

This timetable will make it possible for the parliamentary Labour party to elect a new shadow cabinet well before the summer recess. In providing for these developments I am seeking to ensure that the Labour party can get on with its work with maximum speed and effectiveness. This will prove to be particularly important when the government has a small majority and faces the continuing and very deep economic difficulties it has caused the country.

In these circumstances I am certain that it would not be right for the Labour party to wait until October before

establishing the leadership team and the political course which must be followed.

As the election process opens I have only one piece of advice for the Labour movement: do not feed and do not believe the press and broadcasting media in their reporting of these events. The Labour party must conduct its own democratic election

● I am seeking to ensure that the Labour party can get on with its work with maximum speed and effectiveness ●

and do it in a way that brings credit and strength. That was done in 1983. I am sure it will be done again.

I am taking the opportunity of this statement to notify the Labour party of my intention to seek election to the constituency section of the national executive committee at this year's annual conference. My purpose in doing that is to try to continue to play an active and supportive part in sustaining the advances in democracy and policy which I believe to be vital to the success of the party.

I want to record my heartfelt thanks to Roy Hattersley, the rest of the shadow cabinet and the national executive committee for their loyalty, hard work and for the personal and political qualities which have been a source of strength in the recent campaign and for a very long time before that. I also want to express my admiration for members of the Labour party, old and new, whose dedication to the progress of the party and to the well-being of the community makes me proud of them and confident that our cause of democratic socialism will prevail.

I want them and the many others who have sent countless numbers of moving messages of support to know that I deeply appreciate their great kindness. I assure them that the action that I am taking is an essential act of leadership. It is not to do with any personal sensitivity — it arises entirely from my desire to see that the Labour party will gain further strength and be better able to serve the people of Britain and the wider world community.

This is an appropriate time for me to ask all those who wanted Labour to win to join the Labour party and add to the breadth of its support. In the wake of the general election

many people want to express their feeling of determined commitment to the politics of mercy and justice and to the policies of economic renewal. Joining the Labour party will give them a practical way of making those feelings count.

There will be many opportunities to consider the causes and consequences of last

● The government ... does not have, and will not develop, the policies necessary to strengthen the British economy ●

Thursday's election result. I will content myself, for the moment, with drawing attention to the words of the former treasurer of the Conservative party, Lord McAlpine, in yesterday's *Sunday Telegraph*: "The heroes of this campaign," were Sir David English (editor of the *Daily Mail*), Sir Nicholas Lloyd (editor of the *Daily Express*), Kelvin MacKenzie (editor of the *Sun*) and the other editors of the grander Tory press. Never in the past nine elections have they come out so

strongly in favour of the Conservatives.

"Never has their attack on the Labour party been so comprehensive ... This was how the election was won, and if the politicians, elated in their hour of victory, are tempted to believe otherwise, they are in very real trouble next time." Lord McAlpine could not be expected to acknowledge the degree of misinformation and disinformation employed in the attacks on the Labour party, but in all other respects his assessment is correct. The government elected on April 9, 1992, does not have, and will not develop, the policies necessary to strengthen the British economy, and will not try to address the injustices in British society.

My great regret is that I failed to ensure that enough people understood that, and the implications which it has for the future. My sorrow is that millions, particularly those who do not have the strength to defend themselves, will suffer because of the election of another Conservative government.

I make, and I seek, no excuses, and I express no bitterness when I say that the Conservative-supporting press has enabled the Tory party to win yet again when the Conservative party could not have secured victory for itself on the basis of its record, its programme or its character. The relationship between the Conservative party and those newspapers which Lord McAlpine describes as being edited by "heroes" is a fact of British political life.

I did think that it would be possible this time to succeed in achieving change in spite of that. Clearly it wasn't. Success will therefore have to wait. But it will come, and I will work for it.

Mayhew met with IRA bomb hoaxes

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA marked the arrival in Belfast of Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, by bringing the city to a virtual standstill with a series of bomb hoaxes.

As Sir Patrick took up his post at Stormont with a day of briefings with senior officials and police and army officers, there were ten IRA bomb alerts and two controlled explosions. The alerts, and the bombs in the City of London and northwest London on Friday night, underline the IRA's return to a campaign of violence after having reduced its attacks during the election in an attempt to protect the Sinn Féin vote.

Sir Patrick, the tenth Northern Ireland secretary (all but two of whom have been Conservatives) since the imposition of direct rule, may well be confronted with a sustained period of IRA violence in the next few months after the defeat of Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, in west Belfast.

Speaking on the steps of Stormont with his wife Jean, Sir Patrick, 62, said that he was delighted to be appointed to the "best job in British politics". He said that terrorism would not win and he believed Mr Adams's reverse was significant.

"The people of west Belfast turned against, at a demo-

cratic election, the leader of Sinn Féin," he said. "Sinn Féin cannot win at the ballot box and at the poll — that's why they resort to violence."

They can't win by violence either."

Sir Patrick praised the security forces and what he called the "unshakable integrity" of the judicial system in Northern Ireland. He also emphasised that Northern Ireland remained part of the United Kingdom because of the democratic wish of the majority that it should do so.

He dismissed suggestions that controversial decisions with which he was associated as Attorney-General, notably the halting of prosecutions of police officers involved in the so-called shoot to kill episode, would return to haunt him in his new role. "When you arrive anywhere, you may arrive with baggage," he said. "But you put it down and you get on with the job."

Sir Patrick's main task will be to oversee the resumption of inter-party talks which are expected to follow an Anglo-Irish Conference meeting scheduled for the end of next week in London. Yesterday he committed himself to that process and paid tribute to Peter Brooke, his predecessor.

Major chooses his team

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major will today complete appointments in his new government by announcing an extensive reshuffle of his junior and middle-ranking ministers.

Eight ministers below cabinet rank lost their seats in the election. Among those tipped for promotion are Stephen Dorrell, a junior health minister, and David Maclean and David Curry, junior agriculture ministers.

John Redwood, the minister for corporate affairs, Roger Freeman, a transport minister, and David Heathcoat-Amory, a junior energy minister, are being tipped to join Norman Lamont's Treasury team. Tom Sackville and Neil Hamilton, two junior whips, might get departmental posts.

Edwina Currie, who resigned as junior health minister over the salmonella in eggs affair, is likely to return. Iain Sproat and Michael Ancram, two former ministers who regained their places in the Commons at the election, could return as middle-ranking ministers of state.

Ex-minister posted to Bermuda

Lord Waddington, leader of the House of Lords until the post-election reshuffle, is to be the new governor of Bermuda, one of Britain's few remaining dependent territories (Michael Binyon writes). He takes up his post in the summer, succeeding Sir Desmond Langley, who was appointed in 1989.

Lord Waddington, a former home secretary, was moved to the Lords by John Major when he took over from Margaret Thatcher, but he has been unable to ensure a smooth ride for government legislation in the upper chamber.

Bermuda has acquired an unfortunate reputation as a dumping ground for senior figures.

Queen honours Major's men

Two retiring members of John Major's cabinet were invested as Companions of Honour by the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday. Kenneth Baker and Peter Brooke joined a select band of 65 members of the order.

The Queen held a Privy Council meeting yesterday to welcome new members of the cabinet and to receive back the seals of office from outgoing members, who included Tom King from defence, Chris Patten, formerly Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Mr Baker and Mr Brooke.

Referendum plea rejected

Calls by opposition parties for a multi-option referendum on Scotland's constitution are based on vague, abstract ideas that could not seriously be put to the electorate, senior Conservatives said last night.

Iain Lang, the Scottish secretary, said: "It is absurd for Labour to put themselves in a position of supporting a referendum when, until last Thursday, they wanted to join on the people of Scotland their own proposals for constitutional change."

TV listings

In some copies of *The Times* on Saturday and yesterday, details of television and radio programmes did not appear because of technical difficulties.

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(MAN IRELAND CORRESPONDENT)

Father of murdered girl describes his second escape from a terrorist explosion

Relatives condemn City death blast

BY PETER VICTOR

RELATIVES of two of the people killed in the Baltic Exchange bomb blast in the City of London condemned the IRA yesterday, saying that they feared that the violence surrounding Northern Ireland would never end.

Speaking at a press conference in the City, Danny Carter, the father of Danielle, 15, who died in the explosion, and Christiane, eight, who is in hospital, said that he feared for future victims. "I was 25ft away when the Carlton Club, the Conservative club, went up," he said. "This is the second time I've been very, very lucky. I've got anger in me, but this isn't going to stop. It has been going on for 300 years. There are people before me who have suffered. My feelings go out to the people who get it next. They're sick in their minds."

Sometimes overcome by emotion, Mr Carter, a chauffeur, described events that led to his daughter's death. He had been returning a company car on Friday evening, having arranged for Wayne Lythcott, his estranged wife's boy friend, to follow him and take him home, when the bomb was detonated. Also in the car were Christiane, her friend, Sara Saddoo, seven,



Danielle Carter, killed in Friday's explosion

and Danielle's boy friend Craig Wilkes, 16.

Mr Carter was in a car park under the Commercial Union building, which took the full force of the blast. He emerged to find that Mr Lythcott had evacuated the car. Danielle was lying on the pavement, but the others were taken to Guy's hospital by a taxi driver.

"I was hysterical," Mr Carter said. "There was blood around her face. I started screaming 'My baby, my baby.'"

Mr Carter appealed for help in tracing the taxi driver who helped his daughters.

His wish was echoed by Kay Meekings, his former

wife, who asked also to be given the chance to thank a police officer who had attempted resuscitation on Danielle. She condemned the IRA as "scum". Danielle had sympathised with calls to pull troops out of Northern Ireland, she said, adding: "Danielle was a believer. She wasn't racist, she believed South Africa should be given back to the blacks. She believed that Northern Ireland should be given back to the Irish people, it belonged to them. And it's just them bastards that killed her."

Christiane had still not absorbed the news of her sister's death. Mrs Meekings said. "She's only eight," she said. "It's hard for anyone to accept. It's something when we get her home, hopefully, she will be able to come to terms with. At the moment, she's still in shock."

Christiane might need plastic surgery for facial injuries, but was now making good progress in hospital. "I've lost Danielle, but I've got Christiane back," Mrs Meekings said.

Kenneth Clarke, the new home secretary, spent 15 minutes chatting to Christiane and Sara at Guy's and praised their courage.

Danielle's parents paid tribute to Mr Wilkes and Mr Lythcott, who tried to shield the girls from the blast, risking their own lives.

David Buck, brother-in-law of Thomas Casey, a 49-year-old doorman at the Baltic Exchange, who died, also criticised the IRA. He said that Mr Casey left four children - Sarah, 19, Mark, 17, Elizabeth, 15, and David, ten.

"I would just like to say to the people who have done this: if they could just spend some time with these children. I am sure that this would never go on," Mr Buck said. "Every time I look at the face of the youngest, it's written there."

Mr Casey, of Barking, Essex, had worked at the Baltic Exchange for five years.

The third person to die was Paul Butt, 29.



Back in business: dealers work from temporary offices in the Lloyd's building after the Baltic Exchange, top right, was wrecked, bottom right



City firms pick up the pieces after bombing

BY LIN JENKINS

AS A stream of documents and papers fluttered down from the 23-storey Commercial Union Tower, Robert Hiscox pointed a few floors up to the shattered window of what had been his office.

Like all those who were allowed back briefly to rescue vital material, he was clutching his hard hat. Computer records had been salvaged and temporary accommodation found for his Lloyd's underwriting firm, but the scale of the damage from the IRA bomb was still difficult to comprehend. "Look, that's where I used to be... we had 120 people in our offices," he said.

Mr Hiscox's initial concern was to keep business going. An associate company in the

Square, and the Baltic Exchange accepted an offer from David Coleridge, the Lloyd's chairman, to set up a trading floor in their relatively unscathed building.

Peter Tudball, chairman of the Baltic Exchange, the world's leading market for the chartering and sale of cargo ships, said business was continuing from various offices and vowed that the impressive grade two starred listed building would be rebuilt. "We will return to the building, although it may not be for many years. We are

able to continue business here, just 200 yards from the tragic incident, and are looking at the possibility of moving to the Royal Exchange, Corn Exchange or Billingsgate market."

Much of the building, one of the few from its time to have survived postwar redevelopment, is shored up by scaffolding. Designed by T. H. Smith and W. Wimble and completed in 1903, its lower floors, faced with pink marble, and marble columned trading hall with its central dome, make it a fine

example of Edwardian commercial architecture. Smaller companies have not found moving so easy. More than 2,000 people crowded into Guildhall for help with alternative office space and information on when they could reopen.

Meanwhile, commuters were faced with severe delays yesterday morning after a bomb warning closed Clapham Junction station, in southwest London. No device was found and the station reopened after less than two hours.



Bereaved: Kay Meekings, who condemned the bombers that took her daughter's life

Oxford student sexually attacked as she sleeps

AN OXFORD University student is to undergo plastic surgery after she was sexually attacked by an intruder as she slept in her bed.

The 25-year-old postgraduate was repeatedly beaten in the face and indecently assaulted by a man who forced his way into her flat in Oxford early yesterday.

Detectives, who described the attack as sickening, said

that the intruder attacked the student at 2.25am in the heart of the city's bed-sit area.

He carried out a serious sexual assault before his victim woke up, terrified.

In the struggle which followed she was repeatedly battered about the face and suffered severe bruising to her cheeks.

Her lip was cut so severely that she requires plastic sur-

gery. She was said to be comfortable yesterday in the John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford.

The student, spattered with blood, fled into the street after grappling with the intruder for five minutes.

She raised the alarm by waking her three university flatmates, two women and a man, who had slept through the attack.

The intruder ran through the back garden into a nearby street and escaped. Yesterday police began an investigation into the attack.

Detective Sergeant Phil Dennis of Oxford CID said: "This was a quite sickening attack on a woman asleep in her own bed."

"It is a sad day when women are not safe in their own homes."

"She is particularly distressed and has been in considerable pain from the injuries she suffered. Her lip has been sliced in two and she has some nasty facial wounds. There was a lot of blood."

The attacker was said to be white, in his early twenties, 5ft 10in tall, of medium build and clean shaven. He had light hair and wore light coloured jeans and a white sweatshirt.

Inquest opens on farmer

BY NICHOLAS WATT

THE inquest into the death of Peter Jowett, the Wiltshire farmer whose body was discovered last week near a fire-arm device, was opened in Salisbury yesterday. After hearing evidence of identification, John Elgar, the coroner, adjourned the hearing to May 29.

Police found Mr Jowett's body last Wednesday on the edge of his 900-acre farm at Winterslow, near Salisbury, with two bullet wounds in his back. Twenty yards away they found a remote control system in a wooden box with a shotgun, an arming device and an electrical wire leading away. Mr Jowett, 43, was shot at close range and apparently staggered away from the device.

In a statement read out yesterday, Dr Roger Alnsworth, a Home Office pathologist, confirmed that Mr Jowett died of gunshot wounds to the chest. The coroner confirmed that "missiles" had entered Mr Jowett's body through his back.

Police are treating the investigation as a murder enquiry. Accidental death has not been ruled out.

Coroner overruled

THE High Court yesterday ordered an inquest to be held on a 17-year-old schoolgirl who died after an ambulance failed to arrive in time when she was suffering a severe asthma attack.

Two judges ruled that Douglas Chambers, coroner for Poplar, east London, was wrong in law when he decided in April 1989 that the death of Mavis Thomas, a life-long asthmatic, was due to natural causes and that an inquest was unnecessary.

Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Tudor Evans held there was "a clear public interest that the facts should be investigated by means of an inquest". They allowed a judicial review application by Do-

ris Thomas, of Hackney, east London, Mavis's mother.

Her solicitor, Jane Deighton, later said the family wanted to find out how the grotesque circumstances of her death happened. "In particular, they were horrified when their 999 call for an ambulance was answered by a machine." The case made clear that, in all cases where medical causes of death combined with other causes, coroners would have to hold inquests, she said.

The court heard that Dr Roy Davies, consultant physician and cardiologist, had said that, had Mavis arrived at hospital earlier, "she would almost certainly have been saved".

Toll rises to fund new Severn bridge

BY TIM JONES

MOTORISTS using the Severn Bridge will be charged nothing to leave Wales in two weeks while those wishing to return to it will have to pay £2.80.

The new arrangement will not further the aspirations of Welsh nationalists for a tax-free independent nation. The increase in toll charges will be used partly to finance a new £300 million crossing of the river, three miles downstream, which will provide better access for caravan-towing cars and other traffic.

Announcing the changes yesterday, Severn River Crossing, the Anglo-French consortium taking over the running of the present bridge, said that from April 26 drivers would pay one

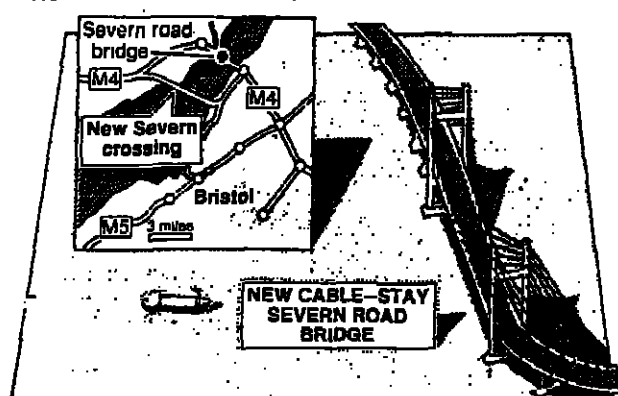
way, westbound. The tolls will increase from £1 each way for cars to a £2.80 return, and from £2 for light goods vehicles and small buses to £5.60, with a charge of £8.40 for lorries and buses. About 19 million vehicles

use the bridge every year, subjecting it to a punishment that appears to regular users to have resulted in continual delays. Although the imminent completion of an £80 million repair programme will mean the return of the

70mph speed limit for the first time in five years, the company said new delays would occur while the "toll plaza" was being converted to one-way charging.

The company said the new system, including electronic "tag" marking for regular users, should eventually speed up traffic on the 26-year-old bridge. Lord Hooson, the company's chairman, said the new bridge, scheduled to open in about four years, would be self-financing.

When the present bridge was being built, the self-styled Free Wales Army, whose former "chaplain" is a lecturer of English, vowed to blow it up. Their threats resulted in a big security operation when it was opened by the Queen.



COMMERCIAL UNION plc

Important Notice to Shareholders Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings Adjournment To Different Venue

Shareholders will be aware that the Annual and an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company have been convened for Tuesday 14th April 1992 at the Queen's Room, Baltic Exchange, St. Mary Axe, London EC3, to commence at 12 Noon and 12:15 p.m., respectively.

As a result of bomb damage and possible danger to the public it will be necessary to adjourn both meetings to a different location.

Shareholders are therefore advised that the meetings will be opened at the times stated in the notice of meeting for the sole purpose of the adjournment thereof. All other business will be transacted at the adjourned meetings, which will be held at:-

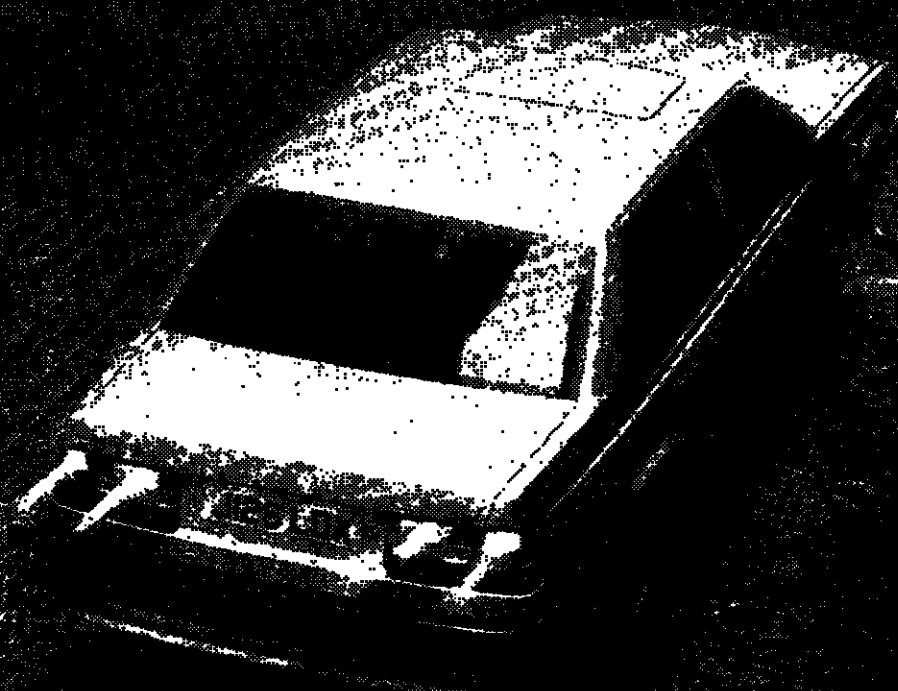
THE PORTER TUN ROOM, THE BREWERY,
CHISWELL STREET, LONDON EC1

The adjourned Annual General Meeting will commence at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday 14th April 1992 and the adjourned Extraordinary General Meeting will commence at 2:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the business of the Annual General Meeting shall have been concluded.

Shareholders are requested to direct any enquiries to the Commercial Union Shareholder Relations Service on 071-283 7500 extension 28866.

K.N. Grant Secretary

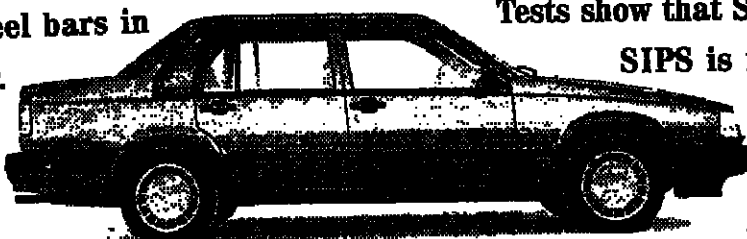
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Rival councils put £3m aside to fight for survival

BY DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

COUNCILS in England and Wales are planning to spend up to £3 million on a fight for survival in the biggest reorganisation of local government for two decades. But caution has been urged by Geoffrey Filkin, secretary of the Association of District Councils, who said: "We must always remember that this is public money that we are using."

A commission chaired by Sir John Banham, director general of the CBI, will begin the task of creating a single tier of all-purpose councils this autumn. The commission aims to replace the two tiers of county and district councils, created in 1974, within five years, although the review will not extend to London or the metropolitan areas.

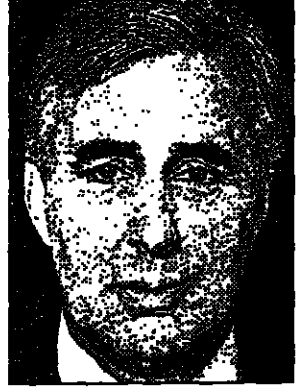
A survey in the *Local Government Chronicle* has found that eight in ten of the 335 councils likely to be affected have appointed consultants to advise them on the best way to fight their corner. That is double the number in January, when a similar survey found that councils were preparing to spend £1.5 million to cope with reorganisation. Associations representing county and district councils have hired firms of consultants to collect evidence to support their positions.

Sir John's commission is due to make its first recom-

mendation next year. The first of the unitary authorities will be created in April 1994, probably in what are now the counties of Avon and Humberside. Until now county and district councils have sought to avoid confrontation over which should take over from the other, but many have decided that the time has come to go on the offensive.

In the first sign of the new mood the 14 district councils in Essex yesterday called for the county to be among the first to be reformed, declaring that they were ready to take over all the county council's duties.

According to the *Local Government Chronicle* survey, consultants reported a 53 per cent increase in business



Sir John: five years to end two-tier system

between January and the end of last month. The largest number of contracts had been won by the CSL group, which was advising 75 councils. Touche Ross reported that it had contracts with 74 councils, and Coopers and Lybrand Deloitte and KPMG Peat Marwick had been appointed by the county and district council associations respectively.

Mr Filkin, whose association of district councils has set up a consulting arm that has contracts with 19 councils, said: "At the moment we still don't know exactly how reorganisation will take place, what the ground rules will be or which authorities will be first in to bat. My advice to councils is not to rush into things."

He urged his member councils to carry out their own research to prepare factual information on which to argue their case when it became clear what sort of reform was in prospect.

Jake Arnold-Forster, political editor of the *Local Government Chronicle*, said: "No commission carrying out the review is going to refuse to look at consultants' reports prepared for councils. However, the commission would want to commission its own research, so it is too early to say if reports written now will be worth the money spent on them."



Radio role: Dame Judi Dench, who will perform with Kenneth Branagh's Renaissance Theatre Company in a recording of *Hamlet* for BBC Radio 3. Branagh, who has returned from Hollywood to resume control of the company, says he is obsessed with *Hamlet*'s elusive character. The recording will mark his debut as

a radio director and the cast will include Sir John Gielgud, Sir Michael Horden, Richard Briers, and Emma Thompson. The broadcast, on April 26, will be the first radio production to use the full text of the play. Patrick Doyle, who wrote the score for Branagh's film version of *Henry V*, has written the music.

Pub law change urged by Camra

BY DAVID YOUNG

CAMRA, the pressure group for beer drinkers, is calling on the government to liberalise licensing laws to make pubs more attractive to families.

The organisation, which has 34,000 members, has voted to seek changes in the law so that children are allowed to accompany their parents to more pubs. It believes that the present law is too confused.

Steve Cox, of Camra, said: "We hope that the new government will take a closer interest in the problems being faced in the pubs of Britain and we will be making various submissions over the coming year."

Camra's proposals come as a report claims that the British pub's reputation as the hub of the community is a myth. Pubgoers are still predominantly male and young in spite of new furnishings and food bars designed to attract a wider range of customers, according to the market researchers Mintel.

Fewer than half of women visit a pub regularly compared with two thirds of men. Nearly nine tenths of people aged 18 to 19 are pub regulars compared with less than a quarter of the over-65s.

Mintel, which questioned nearly 700 customers, says: "Pub visiting is still heavily biased towards men, and young people under 34." The typical customer is likely to be male, under 34 and a skilled manual worker.

Knocked out sailor drifts for 12 hours

A lone sailor drifted unconscious in his vessel for 12 hours after it was hit by a freak wave in the English Channel.

Henk Bezemer, 46, who was sailing to Plymouth from Holland, was thrown against a pillar. He regained consciousness early yesterday and issued a Mayday calling coastguards he did not know where he was.

A coastguard helicopter from Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, and a lifeboat from Weymouth, found the boat 30 miles off Portland Bill and winched Mr Bezemer off. He is comfortable in hospital.

Ransom theft man charged

Andrew Shaw, 44, a car salesman of Silkestone Common, South Yorkshire, was charged yesterday with stealing £2,500 of the Stephanie Slater ransom. He stumbled on the money while walking his dog on a disused railway line. Barnsley magistrates were told. Mr Shaw did not appear as he is on holiday. The hearing was adjourned.

Car deaths

A couple in their twenties and their son aged three have been found dead in their car as a beauty spot near Chideock in Dorset. The family, from Cheshire, is believed to have been on holiday. Police said that a hospice was attached to the exhaust.

Fashanu fined

Justin Fashanu, 30, the footballer who plays for Torquay United, was banned from driving for four weeks and fined £265 for speeding and failing to produce his licence.

Seaman killed

Jean-Luc Tergis, 35, an assistant bosun, died after he was trapped in a swiftly revolving capstan and thrown against railings on a Channel ferry leaving Portsmouth.

Victims named

Two contractors who died after being overcome by fumes at British Steel's Port Talbot plant in West Glamorgan have been named as Colin Mitchell, 53, and Stan Alder, 55, both of Swansea.

Souness well

Graeme Souness, the Liverpool soccer manager, is continuing to make good progress after open heart surgery.

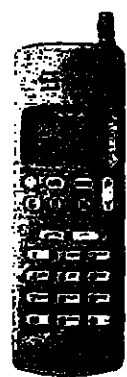
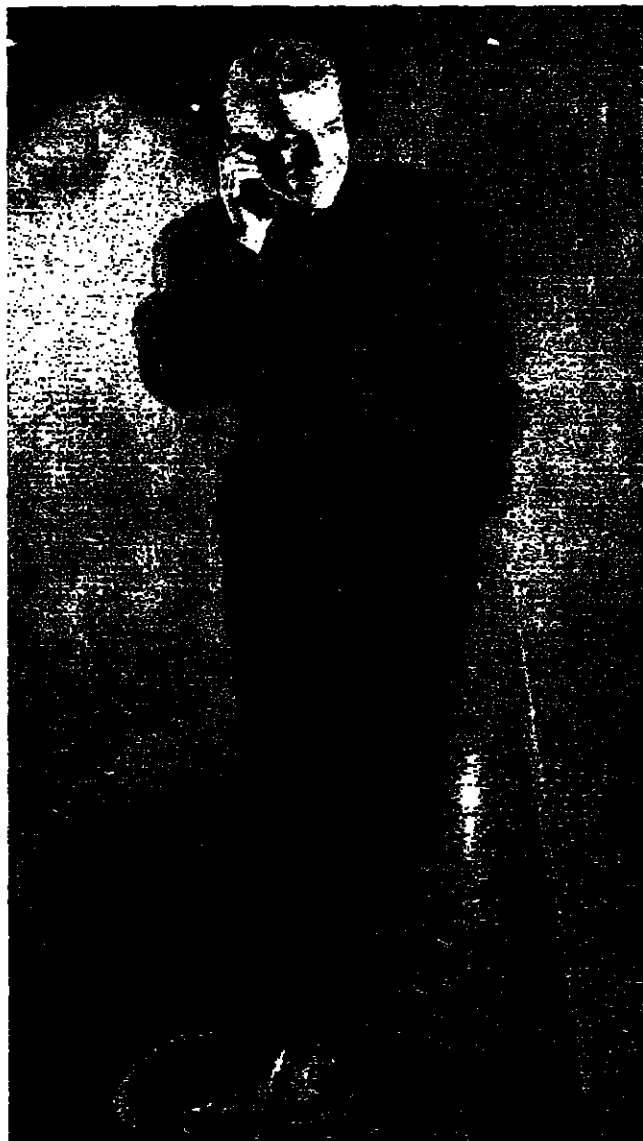
Gum shield

Dave Riches saved a bleeding sparrow hawk at his Many Hoots owl rescue centre in Studdal, Kent, by sealing a hole in its throat with glue.

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Disease tricks GPs into false diagnoses

BY NICK NUTTALL

MANY thousands of people in Britain suffering from a debilitating and incurable disease may be spending years improperly treated because of wrong diagnoses.

The concern was raised yesterday in London at a two-day international conference aimed at making the public and the medical profession more aware of Lupus, a painful auto-immune disease that chiefly affects women. It is known as "the great impersonator" because of similarities to other diseases.

One in 2,000 women and one in 18,000 men could be victims of systemic lupus erythematosus. Experts believe that the number could be higher.

Geraldine Leonard, of Lupus UK, a charity based at Romford, Essex, which has helped organise the European Commission-backed conference, said it was vital that specialists and the public

were made more aware of the disease so that more money could be raised for research and more people treated properly.

"It is so hard to diagnose because it mimics so many other diseases. We have people who have been treated for 20 years for rheumatoid arthritis but they have in fact got Lupus," Ms Leonard said.

Researchers believe the disease, which can be triggered by sunlight, is caused by the body's defence fighting system overproducing antibodies which then attack other parts of the body. Symptoms include swollen and painful joints and damage to kidneys, heart tissue, lungs and blood vessels. Many women can suffer multiple miscarriages.

Researchers are studying links between the disease and female hormones, sunlight, stress and drug use, and are seeking a genetic link.

Channel 5 Advertisement of Licence

The Independent Television Commission (ITC) is inviting applications for a single licence to provide a television broadcasting service on the new Channel 5, to commence no later than the end of 1994.

The licence, if granted, will be for a term of ten years and will be awarded by competitive tender in accordance with the terms of the Broadcasting Act 1990.

The licensee will be expected to broadcast to at least 30 per cent of the United Kingdom population by the end of the first year of operation and up to 74 per cent by the end of the sixth year using 33 designated transmitter sites. This is the extent of coverage possible using terrestrial transmission.

The Invitation to Apply specifying the terms and conditions relating to the provision of the Channel 5 service, together with a draft licence, is available from the Secretary to the Independent Television Commission, 70 Brompton Road, London SW3 1EY.

Applications addressed to the Secretary to the Commission, giving information in the form specified in the Invitation to Apply document, together with the application fee, should reach the ITC not later than noon on Tuesday 7 July 1992.

ITC

Independent Television Commission

Knocked out sailor drifts for 12 hours

Ransom theft man charged

Car deaths

Fashanu fined

Seaman killed

Victims named

Southern well

Gum shield

Michael 5
of Licence

Yeltsin gets ministers to delay resignation

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S government, which has pioneered wide-ranging economic reforms, yesterday tendered its resignation to President Yeltsin on the grounds that opposition from the republic's legislature made its work impossible. But Mr Yeltsin persuaded ministers to remain in office at least until the Congress of People's Deputies ends its work, probably on Friday.

The ministers had stormed out after Ruslan Khasbulatov, the congress chairman, accused them of trying to blackmail parliament by submitting their resignations. He said they were "kids who had lost their way".

Led by Yegor Gaidar, the first deputy prime minister, the ministers said earlier that a resolution passed by the

congress on Saturday would make it impossible for them to carry on with their economic reforms. The resolution, they said, was a threat to Western aid and credit.

The immediate cause of the government's resignation was a six-page resolution adopted by the congress on Saturday after hours of ferocious debate. It described many aspects of the government's work as unsatisfactory and set a three-month deadline for Mr Yeltsin to nominate a new prime minister. It also demanded a series of changes in economic policy.

The battle over the congress resolution brought to a head months of tension between the executive and legislative branches over the right to formulate and carry out economic policy. At present, Mr Yeltsin himself heads the government, but he has used this circumstance less to direct policy than to shield Mr Gaidar's team.

In their resignation statement, ministers said the decisions taken by the congress "block the possibility of continuing the chosen policy", continuing: "Taken together, the demands set out by the congress doom the country to hyperinflation and denote a suspension of the privatisation process and an end to agrarian reform." The statement said that the proposals to lower taxes and increase social security payments could not be implemented without "ruining the financial system".

Mr Gaidar has repeatedly said that he would rather resign than preside over an economic retreat. Last week, other ministers joined him in threatening that the government would do so in a body if its reforms were rejected by the congress.

Yesterday, however, Andrei Nekhayev, one of Mr Gaidar's ministerial colleagues, emphasised that the government's resignation was a "tactical move" in support of Mr Yeltsin. "We wanted to give him a kind of trump card," he said. He and Mr Gaidar said they would remain in office if the congress changed its decision or if Mr Yeltsin decided to override it.

Preparations for both these eventualities appeared to be well in train by the end of yesterday. Although deputies twice rejected proposals that they return to discussion of Saturday's resolution, they were bombarded with information advising them of the economic folly of their decisions.

● Council goes: The Moscow local government announced its resignation yesterday, saying it could not function without the Russian government. Yuri Luzhkov, its leader, expressed full support for Mr Yeltsin. (AFP)



Gaidar: his team was shielded by Yeltsin

Captain employs Tolstoy in feud over fleet

ALEXANDR Lomov, the Russian captain of the frigate Red Crimea, makes daily announcements to his crew on the dangerous political sparring between Kiev and Moscow over control of the Black Sea fleet.

"I read the papers and analyse everything I see and hear. What my crew need to know about these political events I tell them," the captain says. Unlike their junior counterparts, most senior officers like Captain Lomov, aged 36, seem loathe to accept Ukrainian control of this traditionally Russian fleet.

"I won't be raising the Ukrainian ensign over my warship, the fleet should stand for all the peoples of the former Soviet Union," he says. The captain's wood-panelled office beneath the bridge of the Red Crimea, a Kashin-class warship built 25 years ago, sports the flag of a

Robert Seeley in Sevastopol meets a defiant Black Sea warship captain and crew in politically rough waters

country — the Soviet Union — which no longer exists and the banner of the armed forces which died with it.

The senior officer's attitude is typical of Sevastopol and the Crimea as a whole. The peninsula was among the most militarised of all regions of the former Soviet Union and perhaps the most steadfastly conservative, serving as it did as a retirement home for the former regime's privileged elite.

Even Tolstoy, who was stationed in Sevastopol as a submarine during the Crimean war, is used on the ubiquitous propaganda boards in the city to justify Moscowite power. Tolstoy wrote patriotically of the Russian defence of Se-

vastopol: "There was not so much heroism since the days of ancient Greece."

More than 60,000 citizens of the city have signed a petition demanding a referendum to declare independence from Ukraine and seek union within the Commonwealth — in essence a reunification with Russia — which will inflame an already tense situation between the two inheritors of Soviet military prowess. The referendum, in Captain Lomov's words, is "the way to preserve the Black Sea fleet for Russia".

The captain's attitude is reflected in part by his 200-member crew, of which 60 per cent is ethnically Russian. In the cramped and dimly lit



living quarters deep in the vessel, Russian servicemen, seeing their state as the inheritor of the Soviet Union, favour Russian control of the Black Sea fleet.

"At the moment it is Russian and not Ukrainian and that's how I'd like it to remain," Abdul Alejev, aged 23, a Muslim Russian from the North Caucasus, said. Other conscripts in the fleet support Ukrainian demands to take the force as the republic's own naval force.

EC monitors scramble to save ceasefire in Bosnia

FROM TIM JUDAH IN SARAJEVO

BOSNIA'S European Community-brokered ceasefire appeared on the brink of collapse yesterday as Muslim and Serb militiamen skirmished around Sarajevo and EC monitors tried to shore up Sunday's truce.

As Bosnian radio reported shells falling on two suburbs of Sarajevo, the Yugoslav army appealed in a statement for the trust of the republic's

Muslims and Croats. The intended effect was dashed, though, as Colonel Vehbija Karic, the former Yugoslav army spokesman in Sarajevo, announced his defection to Bosnia's embryonic armed forces. He said: "They [the army] have all the artillery with which Sarajevo has been attacked. The army is the greatest enemy of the Bosnian people."

Bosnia-Herzegovina's independence was recognised by the EC and the United States last week. The move prompted Serbs to declare their own republic and fighting has flared across Bosnia ever since. Under the terms of the agreement, EC monitors were supposed to oversee the withdrawal of artillery yesterday. But as one put it: "We have to find out where it is first." Talks on such issues had by yesterday afternoon turned into a scramble to save the ceasefire itself.

There were unconfirmed reports of fighting in Croat-populated western Herzegovina and in Bosanski Brod in the north. An attempt to send humanitarian aid to the town of Foca collapsed when the army refused to participate. The head of Foca's Serbian crisis committee denied that Serb militiamen had attacked a hospital. On a road to Sarajevo, Serb reservists operating with regular army troops scorned the idea of going home. "This is the Serbian republic of Bosnia," said one. "No it isn't," said another. "It's Serbia."

● London: Britain is expected to confirm this week the deployment of a team of medical experts to Yugoslavia next month as part of the United Nations peacekeeping force. The team is expected to consist of an ambulance unit with support services.

Greek minister fired in Macedonia dispute

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN ATHENS

CONSTANTINE Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, yesterday dismissed Antonis Samaras as foreign minister after a disagreement on how to handle Greece's objections to international recognition for the southern Yugoslav republic of Macedonia.

"The government can't have two policies, only one. Greek foreign policy has to take on clarity," Mr Mitsotakis said after meeting party leaders. He said he would be sworn in as foreign minister today. The prime minister said that Mr Samaras was fired because "it is not acceptable to set terms before a decision is taken" by the Eu-

ropean Community over recognition of the state. Earlier Mr Samaras briefed a meeting chaired by President Caramanlis, which was also attended by Mr Mitsotakis and other party leaders, at which he proposed measures to follow any international recognition of Macedonia's independence.

According to press leaks, these included Greece closing the border with its neighbour and vetoing EC recognition of Macedonia. Mr Samaras had apparently not cleared these with the prime minister. Greece is opposed to recognition of the state, saying it must first change its name.

Terrorist campaign called off

Bonn: Germany's extreme left-wing Red Army Faction announced yesterday that it was suspending its terrorist campaign against government and business leaders. In return it called for the release of its members from jail.

In a letter to Agence France-Presse, it said its decision temporarily to halt attacks against "high officials of the economy and the state" was in response to conciliatory moves by the government. It cited in particular statements by Klaus Kinkel, the justice minister, indicating that the authorities were considering releasing a number of its members. (AFP)

Visit begins

Ankara: President Mitterrand of France has begun the first visit to Turkey by a French president since 1968. He hopes to discuss Turkey's links with the European Community. Kurdish groups in France have protested against the trip. (Reuters)

Enquiry opens

Berlin: Erich Mielke, the former head of East Germany's secret police, is being investigated in connection with the death in 1955 of his brother who was run over by a train. Herr Mielke is on trial for the 1931 murders of two policemen. (Reuters)

Links forged

Moscow: Germany and Georgia reportedly set up diplomatic ties during a visit by Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister. The agreement was a coup for Eduard Shevardnadze, the chairman of Georgia's state council. (Reuters)

EC opposed

Oslo: An opinion poll in Norway shows growing opposition to the European Community, days after Gro Harlem Brundtland, the prime minister, urged membership. The poll showed 41 per cent opposed to joining, and 40 per cent in favour. (Reuters)

Paintings stolen

Nice: Thieves broke into an art collector's home at Villeneuve Loubet, in southern France, and stole six paintings, including *Fisherman by a Riverbank* by Pissarro, a Renoir copy and a portrait of Tolstoy, worth £2 million in total, police said. (Reuters)

Wörner recovers after operation

Manfred Wörner, the Nato secretary-general, has had a stomach operation and is recovering in hospital, an alliance spokesman said. The operation forced Herr Wörner, who is 57, to cancel a visit to the United States.

day is to be celebrated in Pyongyang.

Burt Reynolds said he promoted Tampa, Florida as the location for *Cop and a Half*, his latest film, because it boasted picturesque spots still unknown to Hollywood fans.

Loredana Berté, the Italian pop singer wife of Björn Borg, the Swedish tennis star, has denied attempting suicide after being rushed to hospital in Milan at the weekend. She was released yesterday after treatment for what her doctor described as work-related stress and fatigue.

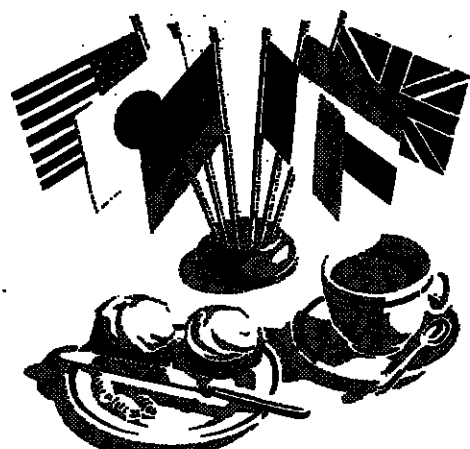
Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the former United Nations secretary-general, is to visit Hong Kong in July to address the colony's business community.

The condition of Satyajit Ray, 70, the Oscar-winning film-maker, worsened in Calcutta, after he developed a high fever and an acute breathing problem.

Arnold Schwarzenegger star of the *Terminator* films, did push-ups and ran in a sack race at the weekend to promote youth fitness.

President Kim Il Sung of North Korea has been named "generalissimo" two days before his 80th birthday.

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Frenchman will not face trial for role in Nazi occupation

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

THE Paris appeal court ruled yesterday that the acknowledged head of the pro-Nazi *milice* in Lyons, Paul Touvier, could not become the first French citizen ever to face trial for alleged crimes against humanity.

Several charges previously laid against M. Touvier, involving the killing of Jewish hostages and a resistance leader, were thrown out by the presiding judge on the grounds that they did not involve acts committed "as part of a methodical and coldly executed plan of extermination". The collapse of the case against M. Touvier, aged 77,

brought immediate protests from organisations representing those who suffered at his hands during the German occupation.

"I am ashamed to be French today," said Jean de Filippis, whom M. Touvier had arrested and sent for torture and deportation almost half a century ago. "My immediate reaction is sheer revulsion," declared Serge Klarsfeld, the Parisian lawyer who did so much to secure the conviction of M. Touvier's Nazi boss in Lyons, the late Klaus Barbie, for war crimes. After being granted provisional liberty by a lower court

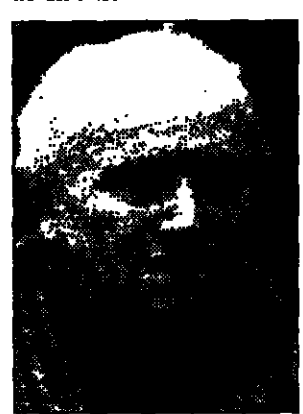
last July, M. Touvier was the subject of a report by France's Roman Catholic hierarchy on claims that an elaborate network of monks, priests and cardinals had aided him to avoid justice for many years. It concluded that before his arrest two years ago at a priory run by fundamentalist Catholics in Nice, he had indeed been sheltered on church property, supported from official funds and backed in his attempts to secure an official pardon by high-ranking clerical sympathisers.

Critics of the French hierarchy's conduct during and after the Vichy era of collaboration with the Germans recall that M. Touvier was eventually pardoned by President Pompidou in 1971. Following yesterday's court ruling, his lawyer remarked that it required almost 20 years finally to arrive at the same decision that Pompidou had taken.

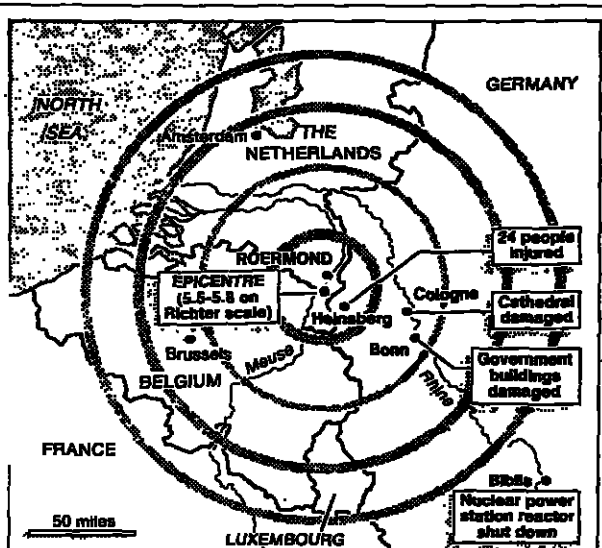
In its 215-page judgement, the appeal court concluded that the charges which the investigating magistrate, Jean-Paul Gotti, had previously considered sufficient for M. Touvier's trial did not meet the accepted legal definition of crimes against humanity. The public prosecutor and lawyers representing those seeking action against M. Touvier were quick to announce that they would now take the case to France's supreme court.

Whatever the outcome there, yesterday's judgement will inevitably be seized upon by those who claim that the French authorities remain reluctant to pursue their own citizens for crimes allegedly committed during the occupation. The long struggle to bring a wealthy retired banker, René Bousquet, to justice for his uncontroverted role, as Vichy chief of police, in the round-up and deportation to Nazi death camps of thousands of French Jews has still not succeeded.

Before Barbie was tried, he sometimes hinted that he was ready to disclose in court the extensive and enthusiastic official co-operation he received from the French, among whom M. Touvier amounted to little more than an effective thug. In the event, the "Butcher of Lyons" held his silence, but the campaign to get old men like M. Touvier, who has cancer, and M. Bousquet into the dock before they die has not yet been abandoned.



Touvier: sheltered on church property



Dutch quake was worst since 1756

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR AND BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE earthquake centred on Roermond in The Netherlands yesterday is believed to have been the biggest in the region since 1756. Measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale, it was sufficient to cause property damage, shaking tiles from roofs and cracking walls.

In Herkenbosch, outside Roermond, a medieval church was said to be near to collapsing. The quake of February 18, 1756, measured about 6.2. In 1983 a 4.7 magnitude earthquake centred on Liege caused £40 million of damage. A quake in Belgium on June 11, 1938, also registered 5.8. Unlike classic earthquake regions such as California, the epicentre of yesterday's quake was a long way from the edge of the tectonic plates whose movement causes earthquakes. According to Dr Gottfried Grünthal, a geophysicist from Potsdam, the pressures that caused yesterday's quake came from the mid-Atlantic and from the northward drift of Africa. The built-up stresses were released along an area of weakness, the Peelrand Fault.

Such earthquakes are very hard to predict and may be especially damaging, Dr Adams said, because the rigidity of the

ground transmits the shocks well. "The rocks are not used to moving so, when they do, the propagation of the shock is very efficient and the results can be felt very widely."

In Moscow, as news came through that Western Europe had been hit by a big earthquake, the switchboard at the mass circulation *Moskovsky Komsomolets* starting ringing.

Yuri Plekhanov, a gaunt, bearded Muscovite who looks every bit the prophet he claims to be, had appeared outside the newspaper offices last Thursday with a placard warning that a massive earthquake would hit Moscow and St Petersburg on April 13. The quake would occur at midday, measure more than 6.9 on the Richter scale, and spread "from the centre southwards". He said he had arrived at this conclusion by studying the works of Nostradamus for four months. "I worked it all out through long reflection and calculation," he told the paper.

Mr Plekhanov's appearance on the front page of the paper of Friday, yesterday, as the calls came in, a spokeswoman said: "People are very alarmed."

Rude awakening, page 1



Scorched earth: villagers watch a tide of lava from Sicily's Mount Etna flowing towards Zafferana yesterday at a rate of four to five yards an hour. The houses nearest the flow had already been evacuated. Military buses were standing by in case of a general evacuation

Concrete and explosives used to stem the flow of Etna's lava

Paul Bompard in Zafferana describes how a mixture of technology and religion are being used in an attempt to halt the flow of Mount Etna's lava

HIGH up on Mount Etna, upstream from the creeping incandescent lava that has already singed the first houses in the village of Zafferana on the foothills of the volcano, American Navy helicopters yesterday dropped concrete blocks weighing two-and-a-half tonnes into the molten flow, while Italian Navy commandos set off hundreds of tonnes of high explosive in a desperate bid to relieve pressure on the village.

There was guarded optimism among the civil protection authorities that the lava might have been slowed up enough to make it gradually solidify rather than flowing on down. "The experiment worked," said Nicola Capria, the civil protection minister. "The results are promising."

But the tide of red hot lava had already reached the top of the earthworks thrown up

on the edge of Zafferana, and the townspeople were quarrelling bitterly over whether to simply let it follow its natural path once it goes over the top, or to turn it in another direction. In either case damage to some of the houses appears inevitable, and 150 army troops stood by in case an evacuation should be necessary.

While the men of Zafferana argued, the women prayed before the statue of the Madonna of Providence, housed in a tent-church since 1984, when an earthquake damaged many of the town's buildings including the beautiful Sicilian baroque church in the main square. Alfio Leonardi, the mayor, said: "We have faith in technology, but we also have faith in the Madonna." He was expressing a fatalism and a lack of trust in national institutions typical of Italian people.

In the Hotel Aironi, the nerve centre of the civil protection effort, soldiers, police, Red Cross, forestry guards, firemen and civil protection personnel milled around in an impressive array of uniforms and muttered feverishly into portable telephones. One Italian Navy commando officer was even wearing a bone-handled dagger stuck in his perfectly polished boot.

The US Navy's Sea Stallion

helicopters had perfectly placed all the four concrete blocks into the channels of lava. The blocks, taken from the nearby Nato base of Sigonella, were originally made as anti-attack barriers. Such was the success of this operation that the authorities began searching Sicily for even bigger blocks, up to the seven tonne maximum which each Sea Stallion can comfortably carry.

Franco Barberi, a volcanologist, said the first results were promising, but "we will have to persevere with the explosions to obtain results. One thing is certain, if we do not relieve the pressure above, it will be impossible to stop the lava advancing below". The eruption, which has continued since January with varying intensity, originates from an opening at about 6,200 feet on the side of 12,200 foot Mount Etna. Europe's most active and potentially dangerous volcano, Zafferana stands at only 150 feet, within a few miles of the sea.

In 1792, 200 years ago, the town was partly overrun by an eruption. The villagers brought out the statue of the Madonna and placed it facing the lava. Steadily the lava advanced, burned one foot of the Madonna and then halted. Today a small shrine marks that spot, but if history should repeat itself most of the Zafferana of today would be destroyed.

● **Managua:** At least 10,000 people have been evacuated from the area around the Cerro Negro volcano in northwestern Nicaragua which erupted last and another 12,000 may have to be moved. Antonio Lacayo, the presidency minister, said that at least 40 people were injured but only one had been confirmed dead. (Reuters)

Iraq told to move missiles

New York: Britain, France and the United States, told Iraq yesterday to remove anti-aircraft missiles from the north of the country or face possible military action (James Bone writes).

Diplomats said the three ambassadors had issued the "implicit threat" to the Iraqi envoy at the United Nations.

Peru debated

Washington: Foreign ministers from the Organisation of American States, meeting in emergency session, seemed unlikely to agree to impose economic sanctions on Peru. They may send a mission to demand that President Fujimori restores democracy.

Fraud alleged

Port Moresby: The public prosecutor in Papua New Guinea has referred Rabbie Namaliu, the prime minister, and four of his ministers for investigation and possible prosecution for alleged misuse of public funds. They have refused to resign. (AFP)

Mali votes

Bamako: Alpha Oumar Konare, involved in the uprising which toppled General Moussa Traoré last year, took a commanding lead in Mali's first free presidential elections. His party won the earlier parliamentary elections. (Reuters)

Scotch missed

Abu Dhabi: The Gulf desert around al-Ain, 100 miles east of Abu Dhabi, was soaked with alcohol when bulldozers smashed more than 8,900 bottles of whisky and 1,000 cans of beer seized over the past nine months, officials reported. (AFP)

Aid granted

Sydney: Australia ended its 12-year aid embargo against Vietnam by signing a four-year \$A100 million (£A3.5 million) programme in Hanoi. Since its military withdrawal from Cambodia, Vietnam is seen as a potential boom economy.

BBC expands

London: BBC World Service Television begins satellite broadcasts to Africa tomorrow. It will offer international news and business programmes, and current affairs features such as *Panorama*. More African news will be gradually introduced.

Coining it

Montevideo: Treasure hunters led by Ruben Collado, an Argentinian oceanographer, have recovered gold coins and an ingot worth more than £565,000 from El Preciado, a Spanish galleon that sank in the River Plate in 1792. (AFP)

Man mobbed

Conakry: The arrest of a white man suspected of paying women to be filmed having sex with dogs provoked riots in Hamdalaye, near the Guinea capital. He was nearly lynched before being taken away. The mob destroyed his house. (Reuters)

Fears grow for Ponte Vecchio

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

DAMAGE to the medieval Ponte Vecchio bridge in Florence has been worsened by the decision to demolish the bridge's historic loggia, the *Corriere della Sera* newspaper reported yesterday. The damage could have been caused by the fact that 19 bus services now run along roads alongside the northern bank of the Arno, the newspaper said.

Paolo D'Elia, head of the engineering department at the Florence city council, said he was worried by the damage and said that he had not been consulted about the decision to demolish the bridge. Signor D'Elia said he had asked for all the bridges affected by the rerouted traffic to be monitored and hoped to draft in specialists from Florence University to do so.

In the past the solid construction of the Ponte Vecchio left its squat structure unscathed by disasters such as the 1966 flood. During the second world war German troops blew up other bridges across the Arno when fleeing the allied advance, but did not consider the narrow Ponte Vecchio of sufficient

strategic value to warrant destruction. The current structure with its famous arcades dates from 1345. It was built to allow Tuscan architects to travel quickly from the Palazzo Vecchio to the Palazzo Pitti. An earlier Roman wooden bridge was replaced after a bad flood. The bridge straddles the Arno at its narrowest point. Twenty years ago the riverbed under the Ponte Vecchio was deepened to reduce water pressure on its foundations.

Corriere della Sera yesterday asked "will the Ponte Vecchio fall down?" It said that Florence fears for its most famous bridge.

Gaddafi gears up for showdown with UN

BY RICHARD BEESTON IN CAIRO AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

LIBYA moved inexorably towards a showdown with the United Nations yesterday as Arab mediation efforts in the Lockerbie dispute appeared close to collapse less than two days before the imposition of sanctions.

Egyptian officials, who have led attempts to achieve a compromise, now conclude that Colonel Muammar Gaddafi will not back down before the UN's April 15 ultimatum, which expired tomorrow. He must then comply with UN resolution 731 or face punitive measures.

Although Libya hopes that a favourable judgment by the International Court of Justice to be delivered in The Hague today might bolster its isolated position, the court's ruling is unlikely to have much sway on the determination of Britain, France and America to bring suspected Libyan bombers to trial.

Under the provisions of security council resolution 748, all air links with and arms sales to Libya will be prohibited and diplomatic contacts reduced unless Tripoli agrees to hand over for trial two intelligence agents accused of masterminding the Lockerbie bombing, and allows a French investigating magis-

trate to interrogate four other officers about the bombing of a UTA passenger jet which blew up over Niger in 1988.

Arab diplomats involved in recent weeks in a frantic attempt to head off the showdown admitted last night that Colonel Gaddafi showed no sign of backing down in spite of the threat of sanctions and the possibility that the West could eventually use force against him.

Arab and Western officials believe that Colonel Gaddafi is more afraid of the possible backlash domestically if he gives in to the UN's demands than he is of the effects of what amount to limited sanctions against his oil-rich state. Experts on Libya point out that, by handing over intelligence agents for trial in the West, he risks angering the very people who have kept him in power since he overthrew King Idris in the bloodless coup of 1969.

"Gaddafi cannot afford to alienate the intelligence, the military or the security apparatus, it is the central pillar of his regime," one Western official said. The dangers to the Libyan leader were clear once the identities of the wanted men became known.



Sombre farewell: Colonel Muammar Gaddafi and his wife Safiya at Tripoli airport after seeing off President Mubarak on his return to Cairo

For instance, Abdel Basset al-Megrahi, one of the two men accused of planning the bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, comes from the powerful al-Megrahi tribe, whose fellow clansman is Libya's second-in-command, Major Abdel Salem Jalloud. Also, the leading suspect in the UTA attack has been identified as Abdullah al-Sanousi, a key figure in Libyan intelligence, who is related to Colonel Gaddafi by marriage.

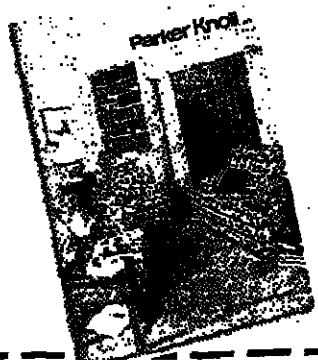
● **Bus shuttle:** Egyptian and Libyan Arab Airlines will run

a bus and plane shuttle service across their shared border to minimise the impact of any international sanctions. Egyptian sources said. The two airlines will fly from Tripoli and Cairo to small airports near the border and carry passengers over the frontier by bus.

Under the arrangement, the Libyan line will fly to Tobruk, 90 miles west of the border, while Egyptair will use an airport near the town of Sidi Barrani, 45 miles east of the border.

Egyptair also agreed to em-

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Victory puts Rafsanjani on collision course with mullahs



Rafsanjani: wary of provoking showdown

AS THE early results signalling a landslide election victory for moderates headed by President Rafsanjani came in, one of the power cuts which affect Tehran plunged the centre of the capital into darkness for two hours.

Businessmen who beat a retreat to the generator-powered lobby of the main Laleh hotel found themselves sitting under an anti-American slogan permanently fixed to the wall while the Stars and Stripes had been crudely blacked out by a collection of flags.

Both were examples of the difficulties which face the wily Mr Rafsanjani if he is to realise the promise of a more open society and streamlined economy contained in the electoral trouncing which his supporters have given the anti-Western radicals. Thirteen years after the Islamic

The Iranian leader will face opposition from the zealots as he continues his foreign and economic policy reforms. Christopher Walker writes from Tehran

revolution, Iran's infrastructure is in an appalling state with sections frozen in a time warp and little changed since the overthrow of the shah. The economic reforms introduced since Ayatollah Khomeini's death in 1989 are at their painful early stage, causing rocketing prices and wide uncertainty.

Inflation is running at 25 per cent, queues are commonplace — a Western photographer who tried to record one was arrested last week — and corruption so endemic that a wad of notes is vital for the bribes necessary to conduct daily life. A skilled politician

with a sharp sense of humour, Mr Rafsanjani is aware of the problems. His most pressing is that he is forced to speak with one voice to the outside world and another at home where even after the poll, he is wary of provoking a violent showdown with the radicals.

Although they are heading for a humiliating defeat, the radicals remain a force in a country notorious for its competing centres of power. Supported by Khomeini's two most influential children, son Ahmad and daughter Zahra, they remain a continuing threat to reform. In some ministries, notably in the inte-

rior, justice and information (intelligence) they remain powerful.

Anti-Western slogans are a staple of Friday prayers and street demonstrations with even close aides of the president unwilling to hint that normalisation of relations with the United States "the great Satan" is possible. "Without that, talk of real recovery is a bit meaningless," a Western economist said.

The divisions between the reformers who will be in the majority in the new Majlis and the hardliners have been highlighted by the election campaign and its aftermath. Many embassies have taken extra security precautions, fearing that resentment against Mr Rafsanjani for winning an election the radicals had alleged was rigged — and many Iranians claim had

a lower turnout than admitted — may spill onto the streets and against them.

As demonstrators forced the closure of a magazine at the weekend after it printed a cartoon lampooning the mullahs who still run Iran, one angry student said: "To me, the real culprits are the culture and Islamic guidance ministry officials. They are so much preoccupied by economic matters they have forgotten everything else. Surely, the economic difficulties have to be solved, but not at the cost of sacrificing culture."

With five of the top 30 candidates for Tehran seats in the new Majlis won by women after more than 25 per cent of the votes cast last Friday were counted, their role was set to become a key issue for the government. Since Mr Rafsanjani took over, he has made steps to

encourage the kind of tolerance between the religious and secular that will make society tolerable for the Iranian exiles he is trying to woo back with their expertise and sorely needed hard currency.

While it is now not unusual to see women in designer suits speeding down the sun-drenched pistes north of Tehran without even the mandatory Islamic headgear, the trend of relaxation which must continue if Mr Rafsanjani is to succeed faces fierce critics.

Even as votes showing the swing from the hardliners were being counted, *Resalat*, one of the more moderate Tehran papers, launched a diatribe against the custom of Iranian women employees not wearing the full Islamic *hejab* (veil) in foreign embassies. "Watching our fellow countrywomen, of the same

creed as ours, in Western appearance is in no way Islamic or justifiable," it said. "In our own land we have to choose between diplomatic justifications and Islamic laws, even if the Western governments threaten and make a rumpus."

In foreign affairs, President Rafsanjani will have to match new hopes by neutralising concern about Iran's nuclear ambitions, its activities in Africa and the fear that it is determined to spread its Islamic revolution in the new Central Asian republics.

Iran's clerical rulers — some would say dictators — face no credible challenge to their power. If economic discontent is not mollified soon, it could combine with the rapid evaporation of revolutionary zeal to threaten a new upsurge of popular feeling in the country of 55 million.

30 million face starvation

Disaster looms after crops fail in Africa

FROM SAM KILEY IN MASVINGO, ZIMBABWE

FOREIGN donors and African governments have just a few weeks to organise \$3 billion (£1.73 billion) in drought relief to head off a famine that could affect 30 million people this year.

After catastrophic crop failures due to drought and record temperatures in February, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Namibia, Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland will have to import at least ten million tons of cereals. Angola also faces a food shortage after heavy rains destroyed most of the crops in its central region.

At about \$315 a ton, importing the grain will cost struggling Third World economies more than \$3 billion

this year. Aid officials fear that social unrest could result, jeopardising the transition from one-party rule to pluralism. They say World Bank structural adjustment programmes in Zimbabwe and Zambia, designed to reduce public expenditure and promote the free market, will also disintegrate under the burden of the drought.

Chris Eldridge, director of Save the Children (UK) in Zimbabwe, said: "I am not sure that the donor community has realised the scale of the disaster in southern Africa. They have been distracted by their own elections and by events in Eastern Europe. There is an urgent need for the donors to act now. I mean on a massive scale, and I

mean now. We have a unique opportunity to avoid mass starvation on a scale far greater than the biblical proportions seen in Ethiopia."

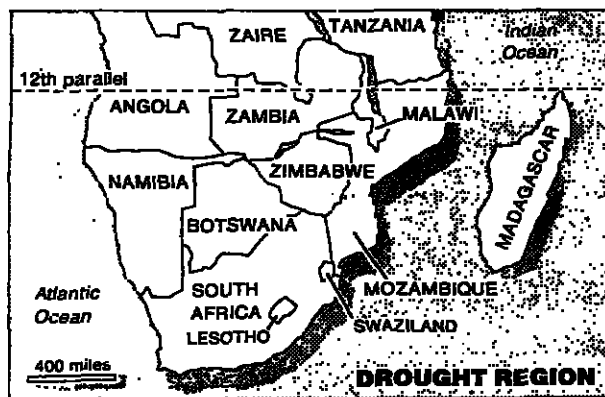
One of the biggest problems is how to ship vast amounts of grain between countries on a rail system disrupted by bad management and war. The only routes to Zimbabwe, from where grain would be moved elsewhere, are through Beira in Mozambique, which is itself affected by drought, or through Botswana to Plum Tree in the far southwest, or by road from Pretoria in South Africa.

Only 1,200 tons a day of grain have been reaching Zimbabwe from a consignment of more than 600,000 tons bought earlier this year. Zimbabwe needs 6,000 tons a day. Maize coming through war-torn Mozambique will be subject to attacks.

To try to end a shortage of maize meal in rural areas of Zimbabwe, Save the Children has, with other aid agencies, started trucking grain into the worst affected areas. John Hicks, assistant administrator of the US Agency for International Development, said last week that the agency estimates that at least half the 59 million people living outside South Africa in southern Africa would be affected.

There are signs in Zimbabwe that the drought is on the verge of turning into a famine. Schools in the southeast of the country, near Masvingo, have reported that large numbers of primary pupils have been fainting in class. At Chingami primary school near Neshuro, south of Masvingo, smartly dressed children wandered dreamily around the playground finishing a bean meal the school had provided. "Many of the children have bad skin, big bellies, all signs of kwashiorkor [malnutrition]," said Stephen Chipadza, deputy headmaster of the bush school which gets rationed water for half an hour a day.

Letters, page 13



Somali hijackers swap Briton for aircraft fuel

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN DJIBOUTI

FIVE Somali hijackers yesterday seized two hostages aboard a light plane, chartered by the British Save the Children Fund, at Djibouti international airport but later set one of them free.

Lola Nathanail, a Briton working for the fund, was released unharmed in exchange for fuel. But the hijackers continued to hold New Zealander Cameron Elton, the pilot.

The hijackers boarded the Cessna 404 at Erigavo in

northern Somalia and told the pilot to fly north to Yemen. Mr Elton persuaded them he needed to refuel at Djibouti. Witnesses said that, after the refuelling and the supply of food, water and cigarettes, the plane changed its position on the tarmac.

The five hijackers, aged from 18 to 25, said they wanted to go to Yemen, Kuwait or Saudi Arabia, and asked for time to consider their next move after discussions with Djibouti officials.



Devoted couple: the Mandelas in 1958, the year of their marriage and several years before he was sentenced to life imprisonment

Mandela announces split with wife

Senior ANC figures persuaded Mandela to separate from his wife, Gavin Bell writes from Johannesburg

WITH dignity but evident distress, Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, yesterday announced his separation from Winnie Mandela, his wife of nearly 35 years, amid fresh allegations of her complicity in murder.

Declaring that he still loved her, he added that tensions had arisen between them and they had agreed to part. It was an ignominious end to a marriage which captured the imagination and admiration of a generation of black South Africans who revered the couple as selfless heroes of the anti-apartheid movement.

Reading from a prepared statement at a news conference, Mr Mandela paid tribute to his wife's devotion to him and to the anti-apartheid struggle. "However," he went on, "in view of the tensions that have arisen owing to differences between ourselves on a number of issues in recent months, we have mutually

agreed that a separation would be best for each of us."

Mr Mandela did not specify what the issues were that led to the split, but said he had not been prompted by the allegations against his wife. He deeply regretted media reports of the accusations, by two of her closest associates, and asked that her guilt or innocence be left to the courts.

Referring to his wife by her first given name, he said: "I shall personally never regret the life [that] comrade Nomzamo and I tried to share together. Circumstances beyond our control, however, dictated that it should be otherwise. "I part from my wife with no recriminations. I embrace her with all the love and affection I have nursed

for her, inside and outside prison, from the moment I first met her."

Mr Mandela's devotion to his wife throughout the 34 years of their marriage, of which they were able to spend fewer than five years together, remained unshaken by her conviction last year on kidnap and serious assault charges. But more serious allegations of her involvement in the murder of Stompie Seake, a 14-year-old township activist, and of a doctor called to attend to him were evidently too much for him and other senior executives of the ANC.

ANC sources say Mr Mandela, 73, intended announcing the separation last week but was reluctant to be seen to be abandoning his wife, 57, at a time when

new allegations were being made against her. It is understood that his closest advisers persuaded him at the weekend that he had to end the marriage for the sake of his prestige and that of the ANC.

In his statement, Mr Mandela referred to the severe persecution inflicted on him and his wife by successive National party

governments, and the strain which she bore in raising their two daughters alone. During his imprisonment, his wife had been an indispensable pillar of support and comfort to him, as well as a focus of the international campaign for the release of political prisoners, the ANC president said.

"She endured the persecutions heaped upon her by the government with exemplary fortitude and never wavered from her commitment to the struggle for freedom. Her tenacity reinforced my personal respect, love and growing affection. It also attracted the admiration of the world at large. My love for her remains undiminished," he added.

It was unclear last night whether or not the couple intended to initiate formal divorce proceedings. Now was it clear whether Mrs Mandela would retain her posts as a member of the ANC executive committee and head of its social welfare department.



An unhappy Nelson Mandela yesterday

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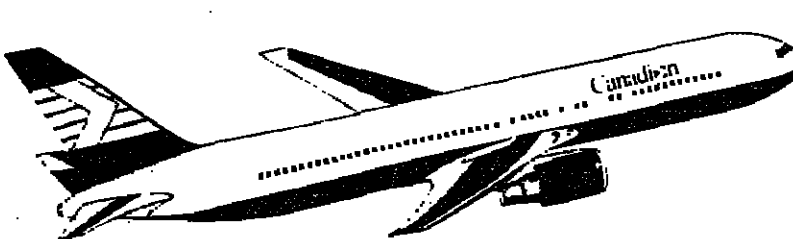
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Robbed in dreamworld

Peter Millar attacks a sugar-coated Peter Pan

At last the nation has found a challenge worthy of David Mellor: it is none other than that terror of lost boys and scourge of the seven seas, Captain James Hook.

I am not literally suggesting that the new Secretary of State for National Heritage should imitate Robin Williams and become our very own Paddy Pan thinking "happy thoughts" in order to fly. Heaven forbid. But Hook, Steven Spielberg's new blockbuster about a grown-up Peter Pan going back to Never-Neverland is the cutting edge of the enemy Mellor must stand against if he is to save his twin charges: British culture and the British film industry.

It is a threat made more visible by the firework-and-fantasia opening of Euro Disney at Marne-la-Vallée outside Paris: the threat of the Hollywood mythmakers to make mince-meat of our myths. Spielberg said he wanted Hook to be very English, to capture the magic of Barrie's original tale. But the result is a candyfloss concoction of imaginary Englishness spun around a core of politically correct Americana.

Spielberg's lost boys are a racially-mixed gang of street-wise skateboarding kids, and their leader sports a punk haircut. When he and "Peter Pan" trade insults, he uses words like "fart" and "bum", which I frankly did not want my sons to hear in the cinema. I do not think Barrie would have approved either. American values are not ours. Our standards are not better or more strict — Americans are much more prudish about sex — but they are subtly, deeply different.

We are, for example, much less keen on our escapism carrying a heavy-handed message. The half of Hook which is aimed at parents is a schmalzy lecture on the "new man": anyone who carries a mobile phone and forgets his kid's baseball game will never be able to fly. It is laced as thick as coconut candy with simplistic homespun philosophy about families, which I found plainly embarrassing and my children found boring because it held up the plot.

American political correctness also accounts for a certain inevitability: when the time comes for Pan to depart with the orphans does he pass his magic sword to? Obviously: the fat black kid (or perhaps I should say the parentally disadvantaged, differently sized Afro-American).

Hollywood adaptations of our fairy stories are parasitical because they leave the originals poorer. More children will see Hook than have ever seen Peter Pan. Many who think they know the original know it from the Disney adaptation. This is already the case with Winnie-the-Pooh, whose merchandising and film rights were bought by Disney lock, stock and honey-pot from the A.A. Milne estate. As a result, in all but the more literate middle-class homes, the image of Pooh is not that of Ernest Shepard's delicate line drawings, but of the simplified cartoon sketch turned out by Disney laboratories. Pooh bears toys copy the cartoon: amorphous, gormless creatures rather than the sturdy, straight-lined English teddy on which Milne's and Shepard's original was based.

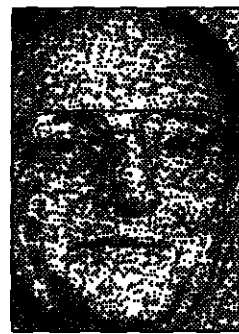
This is the danger of Disney. Let them do what they will with Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck, indigenous Americans both. Even the ancient European fairy stories of Hans Christian Andersen are less at risk: many of them were only sketchy outlines to begin with. Disney's Snow White is a work of art in its own right. Nonetheless, I fail to see why any Bavarian child should be dragged across half a continent to Marne-la-Vallée to see a shrunken plastic Sleeping Beauty's castle, when the original on which it was modelled — Ludwig II's Neuschwanstein — is on the doorstep.

But hands off Pooh and Pan! They are different: works of 20th century literature, not just English-language, but genuinely English. It is our common language that makes them more vulnerable than Asterix or Babar to the seduction of Hollywood, and allows many to welcome the corrupted version with squeals of delight, sadly unaware of the impoverishment when boy or bear next door is transformed into hi-tech American cousin.

Hollywood has long plundered our best actors — Bob Hoskins and Maggie Smith give the best performances in Hook — surely there is still time for us to halt the rape of our imaginations. We are drifting as over-confidently as the Titanic onto a transatlantic iceberg: it is time to send an SOS to Mr Mellor: Save Our Stories.

Patricia Hewitt praises Neil Kinnock's courageous transformation of a once unelectable party

The man who saved Labour



Kinnock standing for power and principle

At a private dinner earlier this year, Neil Kinnock was being pressed by a group of businessmen worried that Labour in government would abandon its pledges. With great force, he leant towards them and said: "You people know what it's like to take over a bankrupt company and turn it around. In 1983, I took over an unelectable party. I've spent nine years making it fit for government. And I haven't come this far to throw it all away once we're elected."

I first met Neil Kinnock during the 1983 campaign, when he came to speak at an election rally in Leicester, where I was a Labour candidate. Typically in that shambolic campaign, it was his second speech of the evening, his fourth of the day. His voice had almost gone, but not the anger and passion which culminated in his eye of poll speech, "I warn you".

Last Thursday night, the anger and the passion were just as strong, the voice just as strained. But in nine years, the party — and the man — had been transformed.

The party which elected Neil Kinnock with a rapturous ma-

jority in October 1983 had no idea what it was getting. It had forgotten his conference speech two years earlier, when, as education spokesman, he refused to commit himself to restoring "the cuts", warning instead that if everything Labour said about Mrs Thatcher's government were true, then the problems Labour would inherit made easy promises impossible. The party ignored the implications of his campaign against Tony Benn and the abstention in the deputy leadership contest in 1981.

The man whom Labour elected nearly nine years ago detested those who preferred the purity of opposition to the hard choices of power. Unshakably from the left, he had no time for the posturing of the left's factions. He set out to win the power needed to implement Labour's principles, never to choose between power and principles. Last Wednesday night, home in his Islwyn constituency, he was still urging the British

people to "vote your values". As he transformed Labour with singleminded ruthlessness, he was often on his own. Sometimes, in the privacy of his office, he would admit to longing for a colleague who would offer him the unquestioning loyalty he had given Michael Foot before 1983. Instead, he had to construct his own majority.

He inherited a shadow cabinet most of whom had voted for a different leader. He won their respect, and gradually transformed the shadow cabinet by appointing the "young, gifted and Kinnockite". He inherited a national executive committee bitterly divided between right and left. He set about building alliances and marginalising

those who were irreconcilable. With his devastating attack on Derek Hutton in Bournemouth in 1985, he finally sloughed off the hard left, in the constituencies as well as on the NEC. And even then, it was Mr Kinnock who had to lead the grueling work of seeing through the expulsions and, later, reforming the constitution to provide for a saner way of doing things.

As Labour's opinion-poll lead crumbled before the 1987 election, and we faced a campaign in which the only issue seemed to be whether Labour or the Alliance would take third place, he knew that all the changes had not been enough. It was his campaign in 1987 — and above all, his speeches — which

saved Labour from extinction. After nearly nine years in the most thankless job in British politics, Neil Kinnock has discovered in himself a steeliness and courage which perhaps even he only guessed at. He has taken everything the tabloids could heap on him and his family, and come out stronger. He has borne with immense dignity the jibes of Oxbridge columnists at his Cardiff education and the whispering campaign of colleagues who, when times were tough, told journalists that it was time for him to go — but never said it to his face.

Once, when the sneers were particularly malicious, Dora Gainskell walked along from the Lords to the office under Big Ben, to tell him: "I travel on the buses and that's not what people say about you there. Don't take any notice of what the others are saying: they're just snobs." Only recently did English snobbery give way to respect for the man he really was.

A few days ago, I reminded Neil Kinnock of something he said nearly nine years ago. "We may not manage it. But we'll give it everything we've got. And if it turns out to be impossible, we mustn't blame ourselves." In 1992, it turned out to be impossible. Nothing that he or anyone else could have done would have withstood the avalanche of fear which engulfed Labour last Thursday.

Neil Kinnock took Labour from the edge of extinction and transformed it into the voice of modern European social democracy. He has discovered in himself the strength which would have made him a good and probably a great prime minister. But this is no obituary, and Neil Kinnock's voyage is not ended. Whatever he chooses to do, he will be there, using all his force in the great task of winning support for the values in which he and millions of British people continue to believe.

The author is deputy director of the Institute for Public Policy Research and was press secretary to Mr Kinnock.

Sorting out John Bull

Ferdinand Mount says we still need constitutional change

The sighs of relief in the small hours of Friday morning were not from Tory throats alone. The clarity, the certainty, the stability, the familiarity — all the virtues of a British government with an overall majority seemed as attractive as ever. As Mrs Patrick Campbell pointed out, there is something to be said for the deep, deep peace of the marriage bed after the hurly-burly of the chaise-longue. Like people who have no gift for making pastry, we are not much good at hung parliaments.

The fluent explanations of the conventions that were to guide us in such circumstances sounded a bit implausible, not least the assertion in these columns by Lord St John of Fawsley that Mr Heath was well "within his rights" to try to stay on in Downing Street after losing the February 1974 election. Those of us who were around at the time remember only a hot flush of embarrassment, for it seemed to us that in a first-past-the-post system, Mr Heath had unmistakably finished second.

Our understanding of all these matters is humblingly rusty. The easy way out, having peered into the works, is simply to slam the lid shut and stop worrying, on the grounds that the old heap still gets us from A to B. Anyone who admits to the peculiar hobby of worrying about the constitution can be dismissed as a proportional representation fanatic. And have we not had an intensive refresher course in all the vices of PR over the past month?

The elections in Italy, Germany and France do suggest

powerfully that we would be silly to waste further thought on a system that gives racist demagogues an easy leg-up into parliament, which encourages centralisation of power (and hence large-scale corruption) within political parties, and which is liable to produce governments congenitally unable to act with consistency and decisiveness. In favourable circumstances, as in Germany, PR can produce good government, but then so can almost any system: electing by lot worked well in the heyday of ancient Athens.

PR supporters are, I think, confusing two quite different things: we do need to disperse power and revive the old pluralism of our constitution, which has attracted the admiration of foreign observers for nearly three centuries. On the other hand, central government itself needs to be coherent and homogeneous: one doesn't look for a pluralised cabinet, any more than one would back a football team which trained under three or four managers with different game plans.

The irrelevance of PR should not blind us to two incontrovertible facts: the constitution is already changing rapidly, and several parts of it are in a neglected and chaotic state that cries out for sustained attention over the next five years. And I suspect we shall need a small standing constitutional commission on the Australian model (not a ponderous Royal Commission) to keep track of the agenda.

First, the structure of local government must be returned to something like the stable state from which it was ripped with ignorant insouciance by the



Bullish, but the state of Britain's constitution cries out for reform

Heath/Walker reforms of the early 1970s. Virtually everyone now acknowledges that single-tier authorities, based on the historic counties, must be the heart of the system, with a reasonable degree of financial independence and responsibility.

Single-tier local government would leave an opportunity to consider some kind of representative body for Scotland. "Talking stock" — the phrase agreed

between Mr Major and the Scottish Secretary, Ian Lang — can be carried out in a less frenetic atmosphere now that the separatists have been seen off.

The notorious West Lothian Question — why should Scottish MPs be allowed to vote on English matters if English MPs are banned from discussing Scottish domestic policy? — is one of those questions which is asked only by those who are deter-

mined not to find an answer. After all, Northern Ireland's MPs at Westminster were free to vote on English matters, while for 50 years Stormont settled the bulk of Ulster business. A constitution need not achieve perfect symmetry to work. What matters is that it should be widely accepted as fair.

Something also needs to be done to "patriate" responsibility to our judges — to revive the judicial power as well as the legislative. At present, we seem to be half in and half out of the European Convention of Human Rights. We are signatories to the convention, but it is not part of English law. As a result, our judges are constantly overruled by a code of which they themselves take only glancing account. Anyone who doubts the ticklishness of the problem should have a look at the recent Court of Appeal judgment in the case of Derbyshire County Council v. Times Newspapers, in which the court gratefully

clutched at the freedom of expression provided for in Article 10 of the convention, lacking any previous Court of Appeal or House of Lords judgment on the point.

As for the House of Lords, can we really be happy with a second chamber which is overruled with such impatient contempt by the first chamber (the War Crimes Bill being only the most recent example, but one of the

most shameful)? Any serious effort to restrain "elective dictatorship" must include some scheme to bolster the constitutional authority of the Lords (without, of course, injuring the ultimate supremacy of the Commons).

For the sake of argument, suppose that we substituted for the present composition of the House of Lords a different mixture, consisting of, say, 400 members: 250 to be elected (by proportional representation if that takes your fancy) and 150 to be formally nominated by the prime minister, drawn from among the life peers and hereditary peers already sitting in the Upper House, with a respectable sprinkling of bishops and lay lords to add gravitas; all to sit for a term of nine years to protect them from the jostling of the vulgar.

Then suppose that we considered, for Scotland, a directly elected chamber (call it an assembly if you must), sitting in Edinburgh as a third chamber of the UK parliament, with all Scottish Bills sent to it for second reading, committee and report stages. Scottish-Office ministers would defend their bills in the assembly, and then go back to Westminster for a special third reading stage, so that Westminster MPs, Scottish and English alike, would continue to play a part in the scrutiny.

Conservatives may be tempted to write off such "half-baked nostrums" (nostrums are always half-baked in political argument, though not, I think, in pharmacy) as the ravings of a cabal of Social Democrats over-dosing on Perrier. However, the author of both blueprints was Lord Home of the Hirsel in his capacity as chairman of two Conservative review committees, that on Scotland reporting in 1970, that on the Lords in 1978 (the Scottish scheme was embroiled upon somewhat by Malcolm Rifkind, but with the general endorsement of Lord Home and the Conservative apparatus).

It is extraordinary what interesting things one comes across in archives.

The author is editor of The Times Literary Supplement. His book The British Constitution Now, will be published this month by Heinemann.



...and moreover
CRAIG BROWN

Germaine Greer, who, as far as I can gather, lives in a far less rural part of Essex than I do, has carved out a career writing columns, as bitch as can be, about getting to grips with the raw underbelly of the British countryside. The columns read a bit like a witty parody of those bloodthirsty yokels in the pub at the beginning of *Straw Dogs* — all blood and guts and swearing — but they are meant, I think, to be taken seriously.

She has one such column in the current issue of *The Oldie*. After an evocation of the countryside that rivals the best of Geoffrey Winn C... the wood anemones are keeping their jubilee, their petals sleeked by the damp air, glowing against the green that is rushing up over the land... she turns up the volume and comes over all yobby to praise the killing of rabbits ("Rabbits are bloody bastards. Absolute bloody bastards.")

Though I have lived in the countryside longer than Germaine Greer, I remain pathetically wimpy. When I lived in London, I was surrounded by fellow wimps. As far as I could gather, not one of my men friends knew where the oil went in a car, or what a carburettor was, or how to catch the barman's attention in a pub. Rather than make a fuss in a restaurant, we would tolerate a disgusting meal, and if ever we saw anyone threatening, we would put on dotty expressions and affect limps.

One incident serves to demonstrate the depths of our wimpishness. We were sitting in a stationary car in the East End, chewing burgers we had just bought from McDonald's. Suddenly, a gang of burly youths swaggered out of McDonald's and sauntered in our direction. "Quick!" advised our chief wimp, the landscape painter Giles Wood. "Eat with your mouths open!"

Now that I am back in the country, my defensive attitude is much the same. Mine is the countryside of Laura Ashley and Penhaligon's, of Pam Ayres and Postman Pat. If Germaine Greer's countryside would be best filmed by Sam Peckinpah, mine is definitely Johnny Morris. I came to the country because I liked the way it looked in postcards, not to spend my time trapping over all yobby to praise the killing of rabbits.

One morning last week, I drew back the curtains to see a large deer standing stock still in our garden. I called my daughter to the window and told her to be as quiet as a church mouse, lest we frighten the deer away. But after a few minutes I realised that the deer wasn't able to move: his antler was caught in our hammock, one end of which he had torn from the tree.

Thus my cheery contemplation of country life switched at once to blind panic at being landed with a live deer in a hammock. So I did what I always do when nature threatens. I rang the farmer. He arrived with a helper, and the three of us slowly approached the deer, the

two of them in front, with me a good fifty yards behind, pretending to catch up.

The closer we came, the more the deer thrashed about, leaping in the air, falling over, and leaping again, his antlers scrabbling madly at the tree. As we were developing a plan to chase him round and round the tree so that eventually the hammock's rope would give him no leeway to move, the deer managed to snap the rope. In a second he was a dot in the distance, and I was safely back indoors.

I am not always so lucky. Occasionally, a man we call "Rattie" comes to leave little trays of poisoned grain to kill rats and mice. It is meant to kill them discreetly, driving them outside in a desperate search for water before they die. But it doesn't always work. A while ago, we were faced with a poor little mouse in our dining-room, only semi-poisoned, running around in small circles, oblivious to anything but pain. As wimpy as ever, we couldn't bring ourselves to bang him on the head, so we decided to drown him. But we were too wimpy to drown him in water, so at my wife's insistence we added half a bottle of whisky to the bucket so as to afford him a good send off.

As I write, there is a dead rat in one of our bins. He has been there for four days, and simply refuses to leave of his own accord. I am too wet even to look at him, let alone pick him up. What am I to do? Where are you, Germaine Greer, now that we really need you?

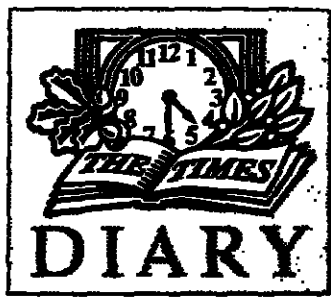
New ministry, old dilemma

AFTER scouring Whitehall yesterday to find a desk and a telephone, David Mellor and his newly-created Ministry for National Heritage will be plunged straight into controversy over a plea to save a masterpiece of the nation, the hammer at Christie's tomorrow.

The work by Canaletto depicts Downing Street, Old Horse Guards and St James's Park, and is described as "the most significant" of the artist's London pictures. The Tate Gallery has spent several weeks attempting to secure a private deal with the seller, Lord Malmesbury, but with Christie's saying that the picture could command up to £12 million, Malmesbury has been reluctant.

Senior figures in the art world are calling on Mellor to prevent the work being sold abroad. Sir Hugh Leggett, of the Museums and Galleries Commission, says: "The government can always step in to provide the funds — particularly as Lord Malmesbury would be more than willing to keep the painting here." Nicholas Serota of the Tate, says that if sold to a foreign bidder, such an important part of the national heritage would probably not be granted an immediate export licence. "I accept it is improbable that Mr Mellor would be able to find the funds before tomorrow, but he might wish to do so after the auction."

As for Mellor, he was unavailable for comment. Yesterday morning a Cabinet Office official did not even know where the new ministry was to be located. By lunchtime, however, it was announced that Mellor had moved into the office of Tim Renton, the former arts minister, overlooking Horse Guards — the very scene depicted in Canaletto's painting.



● The long arm of coincidence? When Harold Wilson resigned on March 16, 1976, Buckingham Palace announced Princess Margaret's divorce. Yesterday, 16 years later as Neil Kinnock stepped down, the Palace announced the end of Princess Anne's marriage.

Brats on the move

CONSERVATIVE Central Office's "brat pack", which only days ago was being blamed for a lacklustre, election-losing campaign, is being lined up for promotion. David Cameron, 25, has been rewarded with a key job as Norman Lamont's special adviser at the Treasury. He becomes the youngest ministerial adviser in Whitehall. Edward Llewellyn, 26, who briefed the prime minister on the election battle last year, has also been rewarded. He has been promised a job as a special adviser, either to William Waldegrave or Michael Portillo.

Yet other Central Office figures are quitting politics altogether. Angie Bray, press officer to Chris Patten, leaves tomorrow to work in public affairs. Mary Bartholomew, brought in to head the press office, goes on Thursday after being blamed for many of the failings of the press operation. Her one golden rule was that she never

spoke to the press, and she did not even appear in the press office on election night.

Official summer

AFTER the glorious weekend sunshine, it dawned cold, damp and cheerless yesterday in London. It could only mean one thing. At Lord's it was the opening day of the first-class cricket season. But if those on the pitch were bannished by the rain, what of the 250 or so people who watched shivering? Certainly, and most of them proud of it. While the elite sat in the warmth of the Long Room, the true enthusiasts braved the elements in the uncovered seats at the Nursery End, all anoraks, thermos flasks and car rugs.

Why do they do it? "It is a ritual, almost religious. A renewal of the faith," said Neville Johnson, who had travelled down from Nottingham. "I come every year. I've seen

have minded much if the covers had stayed on. Only one thing mattered. The season had started and civilisation had resumed.

● Being an insurance group, it was not long before Commercial Union began to worry about its collection of 24 valuable modern paintings, after Friday's bomb at its HQ. The collection features Francis Bacon's *Man in Blue* (valued at £800,000), as well as works by Nicholas, Turner and Constable. The paintings, which spent the weekend hanging off the walls inside the badly damaged CU building, were among the first items rescued yesterday.

Ladies in waiting

WHILE the Labour party faithful argue vigorously over the leadership, a quieter campaign to succeed Glensy Kinnock was also launched yesterday. The two main contenders are Gill Gould and Elizabeth Smith, both telegraphic, but while Gill Gould is steeped in politics, having worked for her husband since he first became an MP in 1974, Mrs Smith is rarely seen about the Commons.

The Goulds, says Gill, are "a one career family". She would be unlikely to pursue her own political career, as Glensy Kinnock did, but as first lady-in-waiting she would not adopt the apron-and-ironing board approach of Norma Major. Elizabeth Smith, on the other hand, has always pursued interests outside politics. She is vice-chairman of the Great Britain/USRR Association, and for the past year she has been busy establishing the St Andrew Foundation to give Scottish help to Russian would-be entrepreneurs. She is described as "straight-talking but entertaining", although friends say she would avoid public appearances as much as possible.



it snow here in April." The rain, if not the snow, arrived at lunchtime. "Just a clearing up shower," insisted Harold Parkham, from Chelmsford, as driving rain lashed the Tavern enclosure. "They'll be back out in 20 minutes." No one believed him, but his faith was rewarded. Not that anyone would

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THE SECOND KINGDOM

Scotland's constitutional future has not been resolved by the unexpectedly robust showing by the Tories north of the border in the election. The paradox remains of England voting one way and Scotland another, allowing the Tories to use their majority from the one to rule the other. That the predicament has become familiar during the 1980s has not made it any more acceptable to many Scots. Devolution is still a live issue.

The Tories' relief is only by comparison with what they feared. Thanks both to the national recoil against the prospect of a Labour government, and to the impact of John Major's late emphasis on maintaining the union, the Tories slightly increased their share of the vote and number of MPs. But it was a tiny recovery. The Tories still have only a quarter of the votes and 11 out of 72 MPs.

Much of the Scottish establishment — churchmen, local authorities, and others, as well as Labour and Liberal Democrats represented in the Constitutional Convention — rejects the status quo. Nearly three-quarters of Scottish voters backed parties that favour constitutional change. Labour's vote slipped 3.4 per cent, but it still has 49 MPs; support for the Scottish Nationalists rose by a half to 21.5 per cent, though they won only three seats.

The political situation in Scotland remains unstable, as Labour, SNP and the Lib Dems manoeuvre for advantage and to exploit current frustrations. The pressures are for moving forward rather than pausing to regroup. The dilemma for Labour's leadership is that repeated promises of victory by the party nationally leading to the creation of a Scottish parliament now look even more hollow than in 1987. Some Labour MPs have already linked with a number of nationalists to press for direct action and a multi-option referendum. Labour leaders have sought to avoid being outflanked by calling for a referendum themselves. This is

not shadow-boxing, since the SNP is campaigning strongly to exploit Labour's defeat in the district elections throughout Scotland on May 7.

The Tories should resist the temptation to sit back and enjoy these battles. Ian Lang, his personal authority as Scottish Secretary undoubtedly strengthened, has sensibly not reacted complacently. He has made conciliatory gestures, both over the constitution and policy in, for example, education. He has said it is "time to change the tone and mood" of Scottish politics. Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, the former Lord Advocate and an ex-MP who supported devolution, has been given responsibility for constitutional affairs. Mr Lang has even talked about the possibility of a referendum under the Tories, though only over a specific proposition rather than a sounding out of views.

The Tories have talked about improving the way Scotland is governed, possibly by reviving the Commons Scottish select committee which has been in limbo since 1987, and by giving greater responsibility to the Scottish Grand committee, made up of all 72 MPs. But such proposals are inadequate. They would extend discussion but not change where power is exercised. Such ideas fail to address the fundamental issue of the Scots gaining more control over their own affairs.

Devolution need not conflict with maintenance of the union. Such decentralisation of control used to be regarded as a thoroughly Tory principle before the Thatcherites started to believe that the man in Whitehall knows better than the man on the ground. The risk that the Tories are taking is that unless their conciliatory words are followed by action the beneficiaries will be the nationalists. Polarising the issue as a choice between separatism and the union helped save the Tories from defeat on April 9. It is a short-term tactic, not a long-term strategy.

SPREAD THE POWER

Those rubbing their hands in Britain at the extraordinary change in attitude to the Maastricht treaty on the Continent should restrain any premature rejoicing. John Major achieved much at Maastricht, not only because of what he prevented the Community doing, but because of the positive commitments he won from his partners: to give the European Court powers to enforce Community directives, to improve the European Parliament's auditing of EC finances, and to keep the Community door open to new applicants. In the exhaustive debate in Britain before Maastricht, the government struck an equilibrium that largely satisfied the government, the Conservative party and the country. There were indeed concessions. But Mr Major did not return from the Netherlands a beaten man; he returned with commitments he believed good for Britain and the Community.

The collapse of the Maastricht treaty would be a disaster for Britain, for the European Community and for all those countries hoping to join the EC. It would immediately halt all other business in Brussels and throw into disarray Britain's plans for its presidency of the Community. It would lead to fruitless recriminations between member states and between political parties. It would destroy any hope of completing the single market by the end of the year, and would postpone discussion of enlargement. And it would profoundly shake the confidence of the member states in their ability to work together.

Few countries apart from Britain held such an extensive debate beforehand. Their governments assumed, falsely and sometimes arrogantly, that because the ideal of closer European union had so long been a political given, no discussion of the implications for national sovereignty was needed. Now they are finding that they were wrong. Public opinion in Germany is worried about losing control over the currency. The French

are not ready to have their constitution cavalierly altered without a convincing explanation. In both countries, elites restless with long-standing but unpopular leaders are beginning to question the validity of what they did at Maastricht as part of a general criticism of their policies and leadership. In two other countries, Denmark and Ireland, specific sensitivities — the sovereignty of Parliament and the vexed issue of abortion — have also thrown ratification into doubt.

Belated debate may bring out previously unvoiced scepticism over Europe. It does not however signal wholesale revolt against the treaty itself. The danger is that attempts to rectify particular grievances on which individual governments feel vulnerable may lead to calls for renegotiation, which in turn could unravel all the hard-fought bargains and balances. And if a government such as M. Mitterrand's holds a referendum, voters may seize on the opportunity to deliver a decisive rebuff to an unpopular president.

It is not in France or Germany where the greatest threat to Maastricht lies, however, but in Denmark. This is because the Danish concern is one hardest for Brussels to allay: that too much power has moved from national governments to the Commission, and that Maastricht will only accelerate this. Sir Leon Brittan, the senior British commissioner, sees the danger, and his latest proposal to hand back some powers to national governments is doubly welcome. It is the first attempt to give real meaning to the concept of subsidiarity; it also goes some way to reassure public opinion that Maastricht should not signal the inevitable accretion of power to the Brussels bureaucrats at the expense of elected governments. Sir Leon so far speaks only for himself. Subsidiarity is a vital component of Maastricht. If the current debate in Europe increases the sense of urgency in defining and implementing the concept, so much the better.

KEEP IT MOVABLE

The Easter week-end has set in with its customary severity. And that is odd because this year it comes towards the end of the possible dates for Easter. The British expect biting winds, and the cherry wearing white (and they mean snow rather than blossom) for Easter. But they feel hard done by when it arrives so late in April. A fixed Easter would make life tidier, and easier for schools, shops, and the organising classes. But it would spoil the glory of this movable feast, which is unpredictable, except that those who prepare for dirty weather are seldom disappointed. The date of Easter is one of the oldest and most gnawed bones of contention in the calendar. The entire Roman province of Asia was excommunicated for several centuries for heresy over the date; and England was split by schism for a century. It is safer not to meddle with the business.

Easter is the principal festival of the Christian year, and its second oldest observance after Sunday, which was regarded as the weekly celebration of the resurrection. In the same way that Christmas took over the pagan festival for the turn of the year and the sowing of crops, Easter, which has little to do with calendrical precision, took over the Jewish Passover. In the northern hemisphere the symbolism of rebirth after the winter works. The name of Easter is derived from the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess, Eostre. (The days of the Christian week are also atavistically pagan.) In the southern hemisphere, where Easter comes at the fall of the year, the dating of Easter is less apt.

The rules for the date of Easter are majestic in their complexity. In the west, Easter falls on the first Sunday after the full moon that marks the vernal equinox. If that full moon occurs on a Sunday, Easter day is

the Sunday after. In the revolutions of the wandering moon, this means that Easter can come at any time between March 22 and April 25, inclusive. The tables for working out the date, with golden numbers and dominical letters, are the most closely argued in *The Book of Common Prayer*, with division by 19, omissions of fractions and the number 6, division by 7, and all carried on by arithmetical theologians until the year 2199.

After the ferocious early schisms and excommunications, for the last thousand years the western churches have settled on keeping Easter on the same day, according to the nice arithmetical rules they have worked out. The Orthodox churches follow a slightly different calculation, with the result that Orthodox Easter, although sometimes coinciding with that of the west, can fall one, four or five weeks later. In this century there has been some discussion of the advantages of a fixed Easter, for example on the first Sunday in April. There is no insuperable theological objection to such a change. But it would depend on agreement being reached among the various churches. To judge from the history of this thorny red-letter day in the calendar, such agreement is improbable.

Easter is the great Christian festival, even though it is increasingly exploited by commerce for the exchange of chocolate eggs and trumpery trinkets. Christ is risen. Spring has arrived a little late this year. Easter's date should be left to the churches, in their infinite capacity for pleasant pedantry. For there is virtue in this movable feast. What needs moving is the British fixation on its other bank holidays concentrated in the spring and early summer, and the whole nation turned out with nothing better to do than sit in tailbacks on fuming motorways.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Union leaders' rapid return to arena

From Mr Jimmy Reid

Sir, During the election it was easier to spot the ball in Littlewoods' competition of that name than spot a trade union boss on a Labour party platform. Any close proximity by union barons was obviously deemed an electoral embarrassment and, God forbid, a threat to good photo opportunities.

Yet on Friday of last week, within hours of the polls closing, it was certain, beyond all reasonable doubt, that the union barons had reassured their control. Or, more accurately, were showing to the world that they had never really lost it. There they were, the absent ones, swaggering once more onto television: king-makers who could stitch up a deal at the drop of a block vote, who could make or break any Labour leader.

What had happened to Mr Kinnoch's new model Labour party? One man one vote? An end to the corruptive power of union money and the unaccountable votes it bought? By Friday afternoon it was obvious to those who can read the signs that a deal had been done. Behind closed doors the bosses of big unions with big votes and big money at their disposal had made a mockery of the Labour party's democratic processes. They were close to sewing up a large chunk of the 40 per cent of the votes cast by the trade unions in the election for Labour's leader, for their favoured candidate.

In addition these unions cumulatively have many sponsored Labour MPs, who in turn vote in the leadership election. They are not obliged to vote for the candidate favoured by their union leadership but for whatever reason they often do.

It is inconceivable that all this happened, overnight, without the involvement of some members of Labour's shadow cabinet. They were either in the room as the plot was being hatched, or in an adjoining room, or at the end of a telephone line. We know everything except where they met. If in a hall, I suggest it be re-named Tammany.

Please remember that at this stage Mr Kinnoch hadn't even resigned. Not one Labour party committee from the national executive down had had time to meet. The chances are that by the time they do, all will be over bar the shouting. I suggest we Labour party members shout "Help".

Yours etc,
JIMMY REID,
Flat 1/1, 3 Newark Drive,
Glasgow
April 14.

From Mr David S. Cooke
Sir, From the media coverage (particularly television) of the Labour party since the election it might appear to the casual observer that Labour actually won. It is unfortunate that the Conservatives have not been given equal "air time" as they did quite well too. Are death throes more interesting than a new era?

Yours sincerely,
DAVID S. COOKE,
Hollyoaks Cottage, Beech Way,
Blackmore End,
Wheatthorpe, Hertfordshire.
April 16.

From Mrs Doris Heffer
Sir, In her article, "The man who saved Labour" (April 14), Patricia Hewitt referred to Neil Kinnoch's "devastating attack on Derek Hannon in Bournemouth in 1985". This is factually incorrect. His attack was made on 49 Liverpool Labour councillors, not solely on Derek Hannon. It was because of this cruel attack on those then beleaguered councillors that my late husband, Eric Heffer, walked off the platform.

When asked afterwards was there no other way of protesting his reply was, "Yes, I could have hit him". Such was his anger at the leader's shockingly cruel public attack on the 49 Labour councillors whose "crime"

was to defy the Tory government and against all the odds build 5,000 much needed homes for the deprived city of Liverpool.

Neil Kinnoch's attack was followed by a massive witch-hunt, as a result of which the once united and strong party in Liverpool is now split in three ways and very demoralised. Neil Kinnoch certainly did not save Labour in Liverpool, where suspensions and expulsions continue apace.

Yours faithfully,
DORIS HEFFER,
c/o Verso,
6 Meard Street, W1.
April 14.

From Mr John Weatherill

Sir, Your main front-page headline of April 14 read, "Kinnoch quits with assault on Tory press". The following day at least three of your correspondents condemned Mr Kinnoch's assault on the press almost as briefly and in no uncertain terms.

Yet from a full reading of the report (by your chief political correspondent) it became clear that Mr Kinnoch merely quoted Lord McAlpine who, in *The Sunday Telegraph*, gave editors of the Tory press the whole credit for the Conservative victory and issued a warning that "if the politicians, elated in their hour of victory, are tempted to believe otherwise, they are in for real trouble next time".

It would have been surprising, even remiss, had Mr Kinnoch not drawn attention to the revelation.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WEATHERILL,
Wyle Head, Kilmington,
Wiltshire.
April 16.

From Mr Robert Worthing

Sir, Britain will undoubtedly benefit from a fourth successive term of Tory government. However, how proud can the prime minister justifiably feel?

The Conservative party ran a dreadful shur campaign. With the help of the disgracefully biased Tory tabloids, Conservative leaders often ignored the policies of the opposition, preferring instead to concentrate on very personal attacks on the Labour leadership, in particular on Neil Kinnoch.

It was Mr Kinnoch who said that "Britain deserved better" and this is indeed true, not in the form of a socialist government, but in a campaign that should have been a much cleaner fight.

Is it rough justice that Chris Patten, the man who masterminded such a "below-the-belt" campaign, is no longer an MP?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT WORTHING,
12 The Crest,
Aldridge,
West Midlands.
April 12.

From Mr William Douglas Home

Sir, I have a feeling that if the Labour party were to drop clause 4 of its constitution, on nationalisation, and the Liberal Democrats were to abandon their long-standing affair with proportional representation, such joint action would ensure a healthy opposition to the Tories in the future.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
WILLIAM DOUGLAS HOME,
Derry House,
Kilmeston,
Hampshire.
April 14.

From Mr Robert Adley, MP for

Christchurch (Conservative)
Sir, Recently (report, November 21) Mr Kinnoch lost his temper in the House and called me a jerk. Last week, coolly, the electorate passed their judgment on him.

Yours etc,
ROBERT ADLEY,
House of Commons.
April 15.

John Major a limitation on oratorical gifts and to that extent may fail immediately to inspire. He is a self-effacing and caring person who, I am quite sure, will not spare himself in striving to serve the community in general and the Church of England in particular to the best of his abilities and, according to the lights that he is given, with all his considerable energies.

He needs and indeed deserves the prayerful support of all who care for the health of Christendom.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN REDVERS,
Tweethills, Harpur,
Gloucester.
April 15.

Faith and certainty

From Mr A. R. F. Carter

Sir, Lord Runcie ("Classics" defuse religious bigotry", report, April 19) would do well to read again some words of T. S. Eliot in *Notes towards the Definition of Culture*:

But one of the features of development, whether we are talking the religious or the cultural point of view, is the appearance of scepticism — by which, of course, I do not mean infidelity or destructiveness... but the habit of examining evidence and the capacity for delaying decision. Scepticism is a highly civilised trait.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Abuse of Shaw's literary legacy?

From Miss Barbara Smoker

Sir, Had Bernard Shaw left his royalties to friends or relations the bequests would have been upheld as sacrosanct. But as Michael Holroyd's article (*Life & Times*, April 7) showed, the treatment of his public-spirited will is quite outrageous.

Most people, never having looked into the question of alphabet reform, think it was just a bee that GBS got into his bonnet in old age. Not so. He had been a keen advocate of a new, scientific, phonetic alphabet for most of his life. And he was not alone in this: other celebrated alphabet and spelling reformers have included John Milton, James Howell, Benjamin Franklin, Herbert Spencer, Mark Twain, Andrew Carnegie and Robert Bridges.

Since the English language has more than 40 phonemes and we have only 26 letters with which to spell them, we have to rely on digraphs (e.g., sh, th, ng, aw, oo), which are time-wasting and print-wasting, as are the cumbersome letter shapes. Worse, their phonetic ambiguity makes written English unnecessarily difficult for small children and foreigners.

However, as the British Museum own the Rosetta Stone, which symbolises the transition from hieroglyphs to alphabetic writing, it would be a neat solution to the moral problem if they could associate that with an educational scheme to promulgate the sort of modern alphabet that Shaw wanted and fund it out of his money.

If small children were all taught a simple phonetic alphabet as a stepping-stone to the ABC it would take only 90 years or so before everyone knew both systems and the better could oust the worse, as Arabic numerals have ousted Roman.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA SMOKER
(Honorary General Secretary,
The Shaw Society),
6 Stanstead Grove, SE6.
April 11.

From Mr C. A. J. N. O'Sullivan

Sir, As a not infrequent user in the past of the reading room of the British Museum I have much sympathy with Michael Holroyd's criticism of how little, if any, benefit the British Library has received from the British Museum's share of Bernard Shaw's estate; but as a former public trustee (1971-5) I must respectfully correct him on two points.

The success of *My Fair Lady* played no part in "subverting his own phonetic experiment"; even if that musical had never been produced the then public trustee would have had no option but to seek a court ruling on the validity of Shaw's alphabet trust.

Mr Holroyd concludes by wondering whether "the misdirection of Shaw's funds over a long period" is not "now a matter for Shaw's

executor, the Public Trustee, to examine". I am sure that the present public trustee would have to tell him that he has no power to do so.

To end on a happier note, I can tell Mr Holroyd that there was at least one good deed in that otherwise naughty world: at the hearing before Mr Justice Harman counsel for the National Gallery of Ireland, on being invited to address him, rose to his feet merely to say that he had been instructed by his client not to argue against the validity of an object "so dear to the heart of so distinguished an Irishman".

Yours truly,
JOHN O'SULLIVAN,
13 Orchid Place,
South Woodham Ferrers,
Chelmsford, Essex.

From Mr Brian Alderson

Sir, The appointment of the Shaw bequest is not the only problematic feature of the separation of the British Library from the British Museum. Another anomaly concerns the division of material between the British Library and the British Museum's Department of Prints and Drawings.

When the library was part of the museum a fairly casual system seems to have operated over the disposition of documents between the departments of manuscripts, printed books and prints and drawings. Some illustrations or proofs of illustrations might go to prints and drawings and some to manuscripts; some bound volumes would be defined as prints and some as printed books.

While the collections were housed together at Bloomsbury this separation was tiresome but of no great consequence. Now, with the British Library moving to its red-brick redoubt at St Pancras, the division may have serious consequences for scholars using both institutions.

No one seems to have realised, for instance, that our national library possesses almost no original editions of one of our greatest national poets, William Blake, since his illuminated books, having once been deemed "prints", are the property of the British Museum. I believe that what is true of Blake is true of much other material.

Is it feasible for the curators of these two national collections to list for us the most obvious anomalies so that we may know where we stand? May we also know if the needs of students of such subjects as illustration, printing, book-trade history and the poetry of William Blake are being considered?

Is there any means by which they can conjointly examine essential material from the two institutions that will soon be a mile or so apart?

Yours truly,
BRIAN ALDERSON,
26 Victoria Road,
Richmond, North Yorkshire.
April 8.

Schools and standards

From Mrs Penny Seymour

Sir, The school governing body of which I am a member has just received details of the government's "charter mark" scheme whereby public-sector organisations are invited to apply and compete for 50 annual awards of this mark, given for high standards of service.

While not doubting that our school (Liss Junior) would qualify, we fear that any attempt to nail a plaque to parts of our dilapidated buildings would precipitate their final collapse.

Our 20-year wait for a desperately needed new school may finally be drawing to a close, after much effort by local people including politicians of all parties to find a route round financial constraints imposed by central government. We are grateful for this support.

What we do not appreciate, however, whilst we and many other schools now less fortunate than us must yet cope daily with inadequate facilities, is the waste of resources on this latest government initiative, which strikes us at best as irrelevant and at worst as insulting.

Yours faithfully,
PENNY SEYMOUR,
99 Station Road, Liss, Hampshire.

Saving graces

From Brother Daniel D. Walsh

Sir, A few years ago four mission personnel, including two bishops, arrived unexpectedly at our mission house in Liberia. The grace (letters, April 2, 4, 9, 14) said at the evening meal was:

Bless us, O Lord,
And keep us all alive,
There are nine of us for dinner,
With just enough for five.

Yours faithfully,
DANIEL D. WALSH,
St Joseph's College,
Trent Vale,
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

From Mr A. H. Ellis

Sir, I was once told (by a parson) that at an annual reunion dinner of furniture removers no one offered to say grace.

Eventually, a member who had been studying the menu volunteered. Standing up with the menu still in his hands, he said:

Help us all, O Lord of power,
To shift this load in under the hour.
Yours faithfully,
A. H. ELLIS,
6 Merron Avenue,
Rustington, West Sussex.

Village shops

From Mrs S. A. Bury

Sir, I was delighted to read your local government correspondent's report (April 15) that Test Valley borough council has introduced a policy of business-rate relief for village shops. Other councils have adopted a similar policy, including my own, South Shropshire district council, which based its scheme on one drawn up in 1991 by Wealden in Sussex.

Village shops and post offices have suffered financially over the last five years from three main causes: the introduction of community charge in addition to rates for those living on shop premises; the need to meet more stringent food-hygiene regulations; the reduction in income in some small post offices.

Like many other rural services the village shop is on the decline. Any measures which can be adopted to arrest closures are to be welcomed.

Yours faithfully,
SARAH BURY,
Millchope Farm, Munslow,
Craven Arms, Shropshire.
April 16.

Twilight zone

From Mr Seweryn Chomet

Sir, Graham Chaimy (letter, April 8) asks how many "last romances" there have been. We have put this question to our computer: the answer is that at least 19 publications since 1980 have included this phrase in their title.

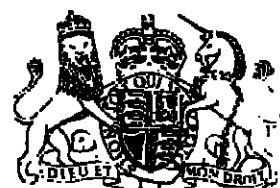
Yours numerically,
S. CHOMET,
King's College London,
Department of Physics,
Strand, WC2,
April 9.

I will go further. Those who have come to know the One in whom they have believed, and by faith to trust His Word, may still hold in confidence to the strength that lies in scepticism.

As a teacher, I must teach my pupils to examine and to judge with discernment; but that does not prevent me from urging them, once they have made a decision, to hold it firmly.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD CARTER,
32 The Poles,
Upchurch,
Sittingbourne, Kent.
April 9.

Weekend Money letters, page 24



COURT CIRCULAR

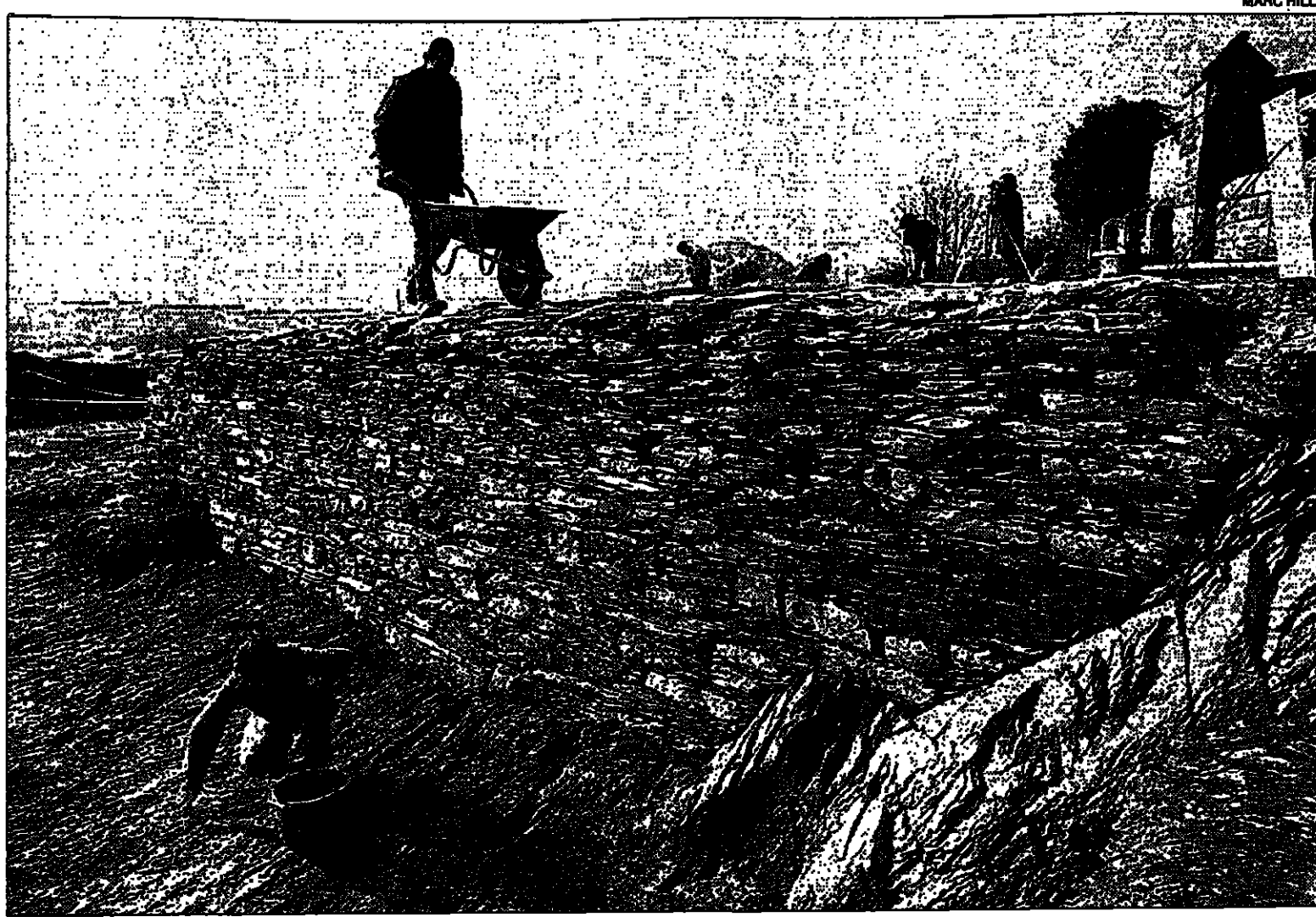
WINDSOR CASTLE
April 17: By command of The Queen, the Viscountess, Lord in Waiting, was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this evening upon the departure of The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and The Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia and bade farewell to Their Majesties on behalf of Her Majesty.

Today's royal engagement

Prince Edward, as Patron of the Scottish Badminton Union, will attend the finals of the Pilkington Glass European Badminton championships in the Kelvin Hall International Sports Arena, Glasgow, at 3.15.

British envoy for Ukraine

Britain is to send its first ambassador to Ukraine, Simon Hemans, a senior foreign office diplomat is to set up residence in Kiev, probably in early June. Britain has long maintained close ties with Kiev and it is unlikely that an ambassador will be appointed to other former Soviet republics in the immediate future.



Archaeologists working on the site of a former station in Plymouth have uncovered the remains of a fort, built in 1643 as part of the city's defences against the Royalists. The walls of Resolution Fort are described by Chris Henderson, director of Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit, as "one of the finest monuments from the English civil war to survive in Britain"

Ministers must decide on powers of councils

BY DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE cabinet must make an early decision on the role of local government if it attempts to provide the public with more information about how their money is spent are to succeed, according to the new head of the Audit Commission.

Peter Brokenshire, who will become acting controller of the commission next month when Howard Davies takes over as director general of the CBI, said ministers had to decide the purpose of local government.

At present it was not clear who had ultimate responsibility for services such as education, the police and fire brigades. Central government provided most of the money but councils still had power to decide how much was spent on them.

Interviewed in today's edition of the *Local Government Chronicle*, Mr Brokenshire said: "There needs to be some clarification as to the role of local government in the administration of what are increasingly seen as central services such as police, fire and education."

At one level the government appeared to regard councils as nothing more than local administrators running a national service along guidelines set by ministers. Yet the same ministers reserved the right to cap council budgets on the basis of local spending decisions which affected their ability to spend on central services.

"The government says we have given you the money to finance it and you are not doing it. The local authorities say your capping limits are all wrong anyway," he said.

He also gave a warning of the difficulty of producing league tables of council performance under the Citizen's Charter and said the roles of central and local government needed to be clearly defined to avoid confusion and buck-passing.

As the commission's director of management practice, Mr Brokenshire has been responsible for drawing up plans to implement the league table scheme under the Citizen's Charter.

Among the problems facing the new system would be the accurate measurement of the extent to which councils responded to local needs as opposed to simply meeting financial targets. "It is one thing to say that they answer the phone in a given period of time but do they tell you anything when they pick the phone up?" he said.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Dr C. Booth, director, Oxford Polytechnic, 49; Sir Walter Clegg, former MP, 72; Sir Roger de Grey, president, Royal Academy, 74; Mr Alan Devereux, former chairman, South Western Board, 59; the Marquis of Donegall, 76; Miss Sylvia Fisher, soprano, 82; Mr Brian Fuller, commander, The Fire Service College, Moreton-in-Marsh, 56; Mr David Goe, former director, O.S.B., headmaster, Horden, MP, 63; Mr Peter Jeffrey, actor, 63; Lord Leatherland, 94; Lord Mason of Barnsley, 68; Miss Hayley Mills, actress, 40; the Rev Dominic Milroy, O.S.B., headmaster, Ampleforth College, and chairman, Headmasters' Conference, 60; Baroness Platt of Writtle, 69; the Right Rev Dr E.J.K. Roberts, former Bishop of Ely, 84; Sir Teddy Taylor, MP, 85; Sir Edgar Unsworth, former Chief Justice of Gibraltar, 86.

TOMORROW: The Earl of Annandale and Hartfell, 51; Mr William Baillie, president, Royal Scottish Academy, 69; the Most Rev Luigi Barbaro, Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, 70; Miss Sue

A.H.R. Stebbing, MA

service of thanksgiving for the life of A.H.R. Stebbing, former Headmaster of St Andrew's School, Pangbourne, will be held in the School Chapel on Saturday, May 9, at 3pm. Further details can be obtained from the School Office (0734 24726).

House yields dusty secrets

BY JOHN SHAW

A GREAT house has put on show 58 items, dating from the Romans to the Victorians, that had lain lost and forgotten for years in attics and dark corners.

The exhibition marks the restoration of Burghley House near Stamford, Lincolnshire, by Lady Victoria Leatham, daughter of the sixth Marquess of Exeter. Burghley was built by William Cecil, treasurer to Elizabeth I. His son was created Earl of Exeter and his descendants have lived in the 115-room house ever since. Many were great collectors and nothing was thrown away.

For ten years Lady Victoria and assorted experts have been trying to make sense of abandoned objects and fit them into the house's history. An early discovery was a Japanese kakemon-style group of two waders used as a doorknob in a state room. Until it was identified it was

generally accepted that most of the house's oriental porcelain had been dispersed in the nineteenth century. An inventory of 1688 refers to "two China boxes" and the doorknob was identified.

While clearing out a store-room Lady Victoria came across a bundle of old newspapers and, wrapped in a 1936 copy of *The Times*, lay a small ivory figure of Daphne and Apollo, bought by the fifth earl for 60 crowns during an Italian tour in 1684.

The family had thought Burghley's silver collection was well documented but recently a silver pen stand tucked away at the back of a cupboard was identified as the work of Philip Syng, who made the stand used in the signing of the American declaration of independence in 1776.

Harry Secombe discovered two small Roman pots in a drawer while filming at the

house for the religious programme *Highway*. Just before Christmas a cabinet drawer that had been stuck for years was opened and inside was found a nineteenth century snakeshead bracelet studded with seed pearls, turquoise and tiny rubies. It had belonged to Georgina Packenham who married the third marquess in 1848.

Lady Victoria said Burghley had no electricity until 1956 and supplies did not reach the attics until 1983. "So everything that was up there was lost to sight and lost to memory..." But also in Victorian and Edwardian days it was considered awfully bad form to know what you had and to boast about your possessions and this rubbed off on people who lived in the house and they ignored what was all about them. "Ten Years of Discoveries" is open daily at Burghley House until October 4.

Recession forces sale of antiques

ANTIQUES from the Fine Art Society Galleries in Scotland are expected to fetch more than £200,000 at Phillips in Edinburgh on May 26.

Premises in George Street, Edinburgh, and Blythwood Street, Glasgow, have closed, reflecting the recession which continues to squeeze the art market.

The society, based in New Bond Street, London, has had a presence in Edinburgh since 1972, and in Glasgow since 1979. There has been a management buy-out of the Glasgow office, which was reopened as Roger Billcliffe Fine Art on April 1.

Mr Billcliffe, an authority on Charles Rennie Mackintosh, was formerly associated with the Hunterian Museum at Glasgow University, and will remain a director of the society.

Forthcoming marriages

Lieutenant R.S. Curtis, RN and Miss A.M. Wild. The engagement is announced between Roger, son of Mr and Mrs John Curtis, of Bonchester Bridge, and Alison, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Wild, of St Boswells.

Mr A.M. Garrood and Miss B.C. Fisher. The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Garrood, of Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire, and Brigid, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Fisher, of Esher, Surrey.

Lord Hankey and Mrs A.S. Langley. The engagement is announced between Lord Hankey of Cowden, Kent, and Stephanie, younger daughter of the late Brigadier Percy Paulet King, and granddaughter and daughter of Major Lindsay Sully, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs C.A.F. Dunning, of Wittering, Sussex.

Mr M. Parkhouse and Miss P.M. Scott. The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Mr and Mrs B.F. Parkhouse, of Barnstable, Devon, and Philippa, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs I.H.C. Scott, of Torrington, Devon.

Mr C.G. Willis and Miss L.M. St. Amour. The engagement is announced between Christopher Guy, eldest son of Major-General and Mrs John Willis, of Grafton, West Sussex, and Lynn Marie, eldest daughter of the late Mr D.W. St. Amour and Mrs J.S. Pierce, of Burlington, Vermont, USA.

Mr A.D. Wolfendale and Miss L.S. Dunning. The engagement is announced between Alistair David, eldest son of Mr P.C.F. Wolfendale, of Great M.R. Wolfendale, and Dr M.R. Wolfendale, of Great M.R. Wolfendale, and Lindsay Sully, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs C.A.F. Dunning, of Wittering, Hampshire.

Buddhists accused of blocking true paths

BY KERRY GILL

A PUBLIC access dispute on a Scottish island, which will be taken over by Buddhist monks as an inter-denominational retreat today, may have to be resolved in court.

The ecumenical centre will be established by the Samye Ling Tibetan community on Holy Island, a small outcrop off Arran in the Firth of Clyde. However, the Scottish Rights of Way Society said it was upset that the Buddhists intended to stop visitors landing on the island's west coast without permission. Free access to the countryside has always been a Scottish tradition.

Judith Lewis, the society's secretary, claimed the public had a right to land in order to use existing rights of way. "We are very concerned. It

seems the Buddhists want to have it as a quiet island and keep any visitors to the east which is not as interesting," she said.

The Samye Ling community intends building a contemplative centre and two temples, one at each end of the two-mile long island, once the home of St Molios, an Irish missionary, who lived there in a cave during the sixth century. The society has amassed evidence showing that there are a number of established rights of way on Holy Island.

Tom McCarthy, of the Samye Ling centre, said he hoped that an agreement allowing some access could eventually be drawn up.

Anniversaries

TODAY: Louis Adolphe Thiers, 1st president of the Third Republic of France 1871-73, Marseilles, 1877; George H. Lewis, philosopher, dramatist and scientist, London, 1817; Leopold Stokowski, conductor, London, 1882.

DEATHS: John Foxe, martyrologist, London, 1563; Erasmus Darwin, physician and poet, Derby, 1802; H.A.L. Fisher, historian, London, 1940; Sir John Fleming, electrical engineer, Sidmouth, 1945; Albert Einstein, physicist, Nobel laureate 1921, Princeton, New Jersey, 1955.

TOMORROW: Christian Ehrenberg, biologist and explorer, Delitzsch, Germany, 1795; Richard Hughes, novelist, Weybridge, Surrey, 1900.

DEATHS: Paolo Veronese, painter, Verona, 1588; George Gordon Byron, 6th Baron Byron, poet, Missolonghi, Greece, 1824; Benjamin Disraeli, 1st Earl of Beaconsfield, prime minister 1868, 1874-80, London, 1881; Charles Darwin, naturalist, Down, Kent, 1882; Daphne du Maurier, novelist, Par, Cornwall, 1989.

Church services for Easter

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: Easter Eve, 9.30 M. 3.15 P. Responses (Walsby, Gray) in F minor. Christus factus est crucifixus. Easter Day, 8.15 M. Responses (Walsby, Gray) in F minor. Christus factus est crucifixus. Easter Day, 10.30 M. Responses (Walsby, Gray) in F minor. Christus factus est crucifixus. Easter Day, 12.30 M. Responses (Walsby, Gray) in F minor. Christus factus est crucifixus. Easter Day, 3.15 P. Responses (Walsby, Gray) in F minor. Christus factus est crucifixus. Easter Day, 6.30 P. Responses (Walsby, Gray) in F minor. Christus factus est crucifixus.

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Rover workers plan themselves out of jobs to reduce costs

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

WORKERS asked to find cost savings in the accounts department of one of Britain's biggest car manufacturers found a dramatic if effective solution: they sacked themselves.

Rover has been seeking productivity increases of about 30 per cent on the assembly lines of its car manufacturing plants in the Midlands. While blue collar workers submitted dozens of suggestions for increasing the speed and efficiency with which cars pour from the production lines, seeking similar productivity gains among office workers was more elusive.

Then, within nine months of being set new productivity

targets by management, staff in a main accounts department produced their own novel solution: a plan to slim down their office from 174 people to 111 with no loss of output of invoices and accounts.

Those who had thought themselves out of jobs have moved on to other companies or to other areas within Rover.

John Towers, the new man running Rover Cars, produced the example of enterprise yesterday as he explained the new philosophy behind the most advanced industrial relations agreement in the European car industry.

The company has signed a

deal with unions which guarantees job security for its 35,000 workers but demands in return complete flexibility from workers who are expected to be able to move to any job in any plant.

The commitment from the workforce has surprised him. The company suggestion scheme alone is producing cost savings of £17 million a year with suggestions up by 400 per cent over those in 1990.

The return is thought to be the highest in any industry anywhere in Europe, with every worker on average coming up with at least one cost-saving idea each year. The reward for a good idea is a cash prize or even a free Metro car, but only about £1.5 million is paid out a year, little in comparison with the cost savings.

Mr Towers said that ideas ranged far and wide and simple solutions had saved big amounts in production costs. Owners of new Rover 200 models were being driven to distraction by a squeaky length of chromed rubber. No matter how pretty the chrome trim looked, it irritated them.

Managers at the company's Longbridge factory in Birmingham studied the puzzle from every angle, but it was the assembly line workers who came up with a solution saving about £15 on every car.

Each of the 13,000 Minis made annually for the Japanese market needed special equipment packages added when they arrived in Tokyo. Longbridge workers suggested a reorganization so that they could do the work on the assembly lines, resulting in a saving of about £40 a car, worth almost £500,000 a year to Rover.

Mr Towers said: "We have a bottom line, which is that if this car company is successful then we all have jobs and we all get paid at the end of the week. We are asking our people to get involved and they recognise that and they are throwing themselves into the challenge so that we can achieve remarkable results."

Lawyers fear legal aid havoc

BY RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

NEW guidelines to magistrates on providing legal aid have been criticised by lawyers, who fear that they will leave the most vulnerable defendants unprotected. They told the Lord Chancellor's department yesterday that the guidance could lead to havoc in the running of magistrates' courts.

A circular from the department said that justices' clerks could not grant legal aid unless applicants produced three monthly pay slips, 13 weekly pay slips or proof that they were receiving social security benefits.

The Legal Aid Practitioners group said: "The consequence of the purported requirements... is that many defendants, including in particular those most vulnerable, namely those in custody, may well be without the benefit of legal aid. Many lawyers may well be disinclined to take on a case when there is no certainty that a legal aid order will be issued immediately, or at all."

The legal profession has been angered further because the circular was issued without consultation with the Law Society. The society will question the legality of the guidelines next week and call for the circular to be withdrawn.

The action by the Lord Chancellor's department follows a report by the National Audit Office, which criticised the system governing the granting of criminal legal aid in magistrates' courts. The bill for criminal legal aid in all courts was £333 million in 1990-1 and the total legal aid bill is estimated to be £857 million for 1992-3.

The audit office expressed concern about insufficient information on why legal aid was being sought, or whether applicants met statutory criteria. It was also concerned about a lack of evidence of checks on applicants' income.

Sex, spies and Keeler

What happened next became the subject of speculation for many years, as if it mattered if I had slept with Christine Keeler or not. I am prepared to admit now that I did. I allowed her to seduce me. That devil of a girl could seduce anybody!



It was a good thing that the furniture in Stephen Ward's flat was solid, otherwise the material damage resulting from our love play could have been considerable. We devoured each other like two animals...

Former Soviet agent Captain Yevgeny Ivanov, in the first exclusive extract from his book *The Naked Spy* - in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

Red Nose appeals net £67m

BY A STAFF REPORTER

DONORS who have given £67 million to the Comic Relief charity were last night shown how their money, raised during light-hearted Red Nose days, has been spent.

The charity, which encouraged people to don bright red plastic noses for a day in each of the past six years, is not holding a Red Nose day this year. Instead, the team behind the fund-raising made a two-hour BBC1 programme, screened last night, which showed where the money has gone. Two-thirds of the cash was spent helping the starving in Africa, and the remainder in the UK.

Celebrities, including the treasure hunt compere Anneka Rice, the actor Geoffrey Palmer, the comedians Griff Rhys-Jones and Larry Henry, and the chat show host Jonathan Ross, appeared in the programme, which started with the results of a *Radio Times* poll for the best comedy of last year's Red Nose day.

No serious risk in US, Britons told

BY DAVID YOUNG

TOUR operators yesterday reminded travellers, in the wake of the murder of a British woman in New Orleans, to heed the advice of local police and holiday company representatives when abroad.

The United States Embassy in London said that there was no serious risk to tourists in America. Speaking of the murder in New Orleans of Julie Stott, a Manchester textile designer, a spokesman said: "Any city has areas where it can be dangerous, be it Rio, London or Melbourne."

"More than two-and-a-half million Britons visit the US each year. They are given advice by travel couriers and others about where to go and about what not to do. New Orleans is a big city, but does not have a bad reputation. People go there for the jazz and exotic food. This sort of tragedy could happen anywhere in the world."

The incident has embarrassed tourist authorities in the area. A serious attack on an elderly American ex-serviceman near the Tower of London two weeks ago also embarrassed the London Tourist Authority.

Miss Stott, who was shot

Two held over £16m drugs haul

TWO Peruvians are being questioned after customs officers seized 100 kilos of cocaine with an estimated street value of £16 million.

The drug was shipped from Peru to Liverpool in a consignment of coffee. It was followed from a container terminal to a private warehouse in west London, where customs officials backed by police moved in last night.

The discovery comes two weeks after customs officers seized a record 935 kilos of cocaine, worth up to £150 million, smuggled into Britain from Venezuela in lead ingots. Customs and Excise said that the seizures provided further evidence that Colombian cocaine barons were using neighbouring countries as loading points for shipments to the UK and Europe.

Sir John Cope, minister responsible for Customs and Excise, said that the continued vigilance of customs staff was essential "to protect against the terrible damage drugs can do to people's lives". In the first 15 weeks of this year more than 1,100 kilos of cocaine was seized compared with 1,060 kilos for the whole of last year.

Gardens yield a cash crop

BY JOHN YOUNG

WHATEVER the weather over the rest of the holiday weekend, thousands of people will be out celebrating the seasonal start of their favourite leisure pursuit: garden gazing.

Easter is when "stately homes" reopen to the public. A survey by the Historic Houses Association shows that their gardens are becoming as big an attraction as the houses.

The association, which represents more than 1,300 owners, says that, although there was no overall increase in the number of visitors last year, homes with good gardens enjoyed a surge in business. Among them were Cholmondeley Castle, Cheshire, where attendances were up 35 per cent; Parham,

West Sussex (up 31 per cent); Somerleyton Hall, Suffolk (25 per cent); Painswick Rococo Gardens, Gloucestershire (13 per cent); and Chénies, Buckinghamshire (11 per cent). In each case, an enthusiastic owner has effected changes through replanting, regeneration and designing new features to attract visitors, the association says.

Flower gardens laid out on formal eighteenth and nineteenth century lines are back in fashion, but at Hatch Court, Somerset, Robin Odgers has reclaimed a walled garden from wilderness and is recreating it as a Victorian kitchen garden. Unusual and colourful vegetables, such as rainbow chard, attract visitors and

add interest to the menu of a local hotel.

Interest in historic gardens is linked to the growth in enthusiasm for domestic gardening and the accompanying popularity of garden centres. This year, more than 2,500 homeowners will display the fruits of their labours to visitors under the National Gardens Scheme. It may well be that visitors find it easier to "relate" to gardens, however grand, than to great houses and their contents. Few of us can aspire to furnish our homes with Canaletto and Chippendale, but we can always copy ideas from other people's gardens.

Gardening, Weekend Times, page 13



Temple for a water goddess: Russell McLaine, of Thames Water, sweeping a new underground reservoir near Reading, Berkshire, before it is filled with more than three million gallons of water next week, enough for about 72 million cups of tea for nearby villagers. The reservoir, at Burghfield, has been built at a cost of £3 million to meet an expected surge in demand

over the next 25 years in the villages of Burghfield, Mortimer Common, Silchester, Tadley, Upton Noret and surrounding areas. "The new reservoir and new pumps mean that more water can be stored, giving back-up we did not have before," Mike Fordham, Thames Water's project manager, said yesterday. "In the past, there were occasional shortages when

water use was very heavy - on summer evenings, for example. The work will solve this problem." All that will be visible from the top will be a grassy bank, shielded by trees. Feeding the landscaped cavern with fresh water has involved the laying of more than 1.4 kilometres of new mains pipes leading from the Upton Noret mains system.

Hunt for attacker of boy intensifies

BY PETER VICTOR

POLICE last night stepped up the hunt for an attacker who sexually assaulted and strangled a four-year-old boy at his parents' lodging house, doubling the number of officers engaged to 90. Investigations centred on the three-floor terraced house in Plymouth and detectives warned parents in the city to be extra vigilant.

They disclosed that the killer may have taken only five minutes to slip into Matthew Robinson's third floor bedroom to attack him. Det Supt Malcolm Corp, who leads the investigation, said: "Matthew could have been assaulted and died in a five-minute period."

The child was killed in his bunk bed at the house in Saltash Road, Plymouth, Devon, early on Wednesday morning as his nine-year-old brother Jason lay asleep in the same room. "We are still interviewing the occupants of the house," a police spokesman said.

"With an enquiry like this we have to spend a lot of time with each of them." Detectives said that former tenants of the lodging house were now being traced.

"I would say to anyone coming to the city this weekend that should be aware of this very nasty incident. I do not wish to scaremonger, but everyone should be vigilant," the police spokesman said.

Jason Robinson has received counselling from Plymouth police's child protection unit and has given detectives a detailed statement. "We have spoken to the boy's brother, who is very distressed," Mr Corp said. Materials taken from the house are being tested, he added. Further searches of the premises are continuing.

The Home Office's Holmes computer system is being used to assist the investigation and old rent books kept by the victim's parents, Alan Robinson, a 63-year-old inventor, and his wife Christine, 39, are being studied to trace former tenants.

A woman and four men who were regular tenants at the house have given the police witness statements, but are not being treated as suspects, Mr Corp said.

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WILLIAM HURT

THE DOCTOR

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FOLLOW THE LEADER

Neil Kinnock deserves to be talked about in the same breath as Hugh Gaiskell — two remarkably gifted Labour leaders who never became prime minister. The party Mr Kinnock inherited in 1983 was internally schismatic, ideologically archaic and a prisoner of its own traditions. It retained the support of barely a quarter of the electorate. Through toughness tempered with honesty and charm, Mr Kinnock restored the party to a point where it could win a third of the votes cast in a general election. He deserves his party's gratitude and his country's respect.

Will his successor be able to build on that achievement? Even before his resignation yesterday, Labour's old bugbear, disunity, threatened to break out. As John Smith's juggernaut gathered momentum, his putative opponents lay down in its path. They alleged that a decision on the leadership was being rushed and debate suppressed, at trade union behest.

The critics are talking their own book. Mr Smith has already won the support of the most formidable of the successor generation: Gordon Brown, Tony Blair and Margaret Beckett. Only second and third rank opponents look like entering the lists against him. Bryan Gould is an articulate lightweight; John Prescott, an incorrigible bruiser. Ken Livingstone has steadily subtracted from the reputation he won as leader of the Greater London Council since he entered the House of Commons. Though these men cannot believe they might win, they calculate that a long campaign could enable them to whittle away Mr Smith's lead, by winning constituency support.

The timing of Mr Kinnock's resignation was of his choosing, not Mr Smith's. Mr Kinnock is not going at once. He announced yesterday that he will stay until the second half of June, allowing time for a short, intense period of debate. The party's executive which meets today could decide to delay his replacement until Labour's conference in September, extending that debate further.

That said, there is the whiff of a fix about what is going on. Mr Kinnock recaptured his party from the left, but many marks of the old occupation remain upon it. One is the electoral college which chooses his successor. It gives 40 per cent of the votes to the unions, only 30 per cent each to Labour MPs and Labour constituencies. That is no way to choose a leader. The unions are even stronger at party conference, where their block votes dominate all others. Mr Kinnock had plans gradually to reduce this but was persuaded to shelve them until after the election. The key decisions as to the party's future will now again be dominated by union barons, beginning with a decision on the leadership. Unchallenged, this would mean that Labour was again saddled with union-dictated policies. Some of these policies, like the social charter and the minimum wage, will damage the economy. Unions are conservative institutions, led by cautious men. They are enthralled to traditional labourism which has never adapted to the new demographics of wealth, class and region. They are indifferent to constitutional reform; they instinctively distrust talk of arrangements with other parties. If Labour continues to accept their dominance, it must continue to accept defeat.

The focus now moves to Mr Smith. He could sit back and wait for the union machine to deliver him the seat of power. But he will then be the union's creature. Or he could decide to be his own man. He could set out where he thinks Labour went wrong, and what he would do to put it right. His manifesto should include both a programme for party reform, and a redefinition of the party's appeal outside its ranks. A vote for Mr Smith would then be more than a vote for the electable face of Kinnockism. It would be a mandate for change. Without that change, the office of leader of the Labour party will continue to be nothing more than a ticket to the grief that Mr Kinnock suffered last Thursday.

NOT ONE OF US

The watchword of Margaret Thatcher's three election victories was "take no prisoners". The fate of the vanquished on the battlefield was simply to fall down and die. If John Major wants to mark last week's triumph by stamping his own more conciliatory style on public life, he should be raising a new flag: that of generosity in victory. There could be no better way of proving he means it than by altering the implicit rules for the exercise of political patronage. Mr Major should see that henceforth the springs of patronage rising in Downing Street and elsewhere in Whitehall flow freely again to right, left and centre.

Mr Thatcher's approach to patronage was the simple rule: "Those who are not with me are against me." This Manichaean dualism had two consequences, neither of them good for the long-term health of British political life. She defined the enemy too widely, as in the famous catchphrase: "Is he/she one of us?" And she defined the enemy too righteously, as if those who disagreed with her must be tainted with moral evil or even treason. They were "the enemy within".

This narrowness inside the Thatcher bunker, verging at times on paranoia, helped her some way down the path of radical reform. There were quangos whose membership had to be changed if change in policy was to be implemented. There was no point in giving an industry chairmanship to a passionate nationalist, if privatisation was in the offing, or a quango to a convinced regulator, if deregulation was the policy.

Yet the narrowness deeply alienated those outside the magic circle. Mrs Thatcher broke an unwritten rule of the constitution: that at all levels of government, adequate room should be made for the presence of a "loyal opposition". Indeed, the continued unwrittenness of the constitution depends upon such conventions being observed.

The customs of Parliament guarantee a fair proportion of Opposition places on select

committees. The workings of local democracy do the same for local councils, perhaps a reason Mrs Thatcher was so hostile to them. Herein a measure of pluralism survived. But elsewhere, in the myriad committees, commissions, boards and governorships of national and local public administration, those not of Mrs Thatcher's ideological persuasion have felt the squeeze. Even in the House of Lords, she refused to appoint sufficient Labour and Liberal-Democrat nominees to maintain the previous balance. Now that the House is unlikely to be reformed in the foreseeable future, Mr Major should be scrupulous in seeing that Opposition benches are kept properly stocked and replenished.

There is no harm in occasional hard shakes to the British establishment. But the shake has been administered and a new establishment is emerging which could do with some new blood. Those not of the Tory inner circle notionally represent over half the British population. Thirteen years in the cold is a long time; a further four or five years will be longer and colder still. One day there will be a change of government, and the long-term quality of public administration demands that non-Tories benefit from wider experience than just that of losing elections. Nothing tempers a tendency towards ideological extremism more quickly than a lesson or two in the art of compromise: in helping run a health district, a trust hospital, a university, a public corporation, a museum or gallery.

A more tolerant use of patronage would spread the art of government beyond a partisan ruling elite, and raise the quality of institutional debate. To exclude talented administrators and wise old heads just because they are of the wrong political colour is to impoverish public life. Mrs Thatcher made her point. Mr Major says he will be "prime minister of all Britons". He should make clear he regards all Britons as eligible to benefit from his vast powers of patronage.

HERE BE DRAGONS

The fascination of dinosaurs is given a boost by an exhibition opening at the Natural History Museum today. The "terrible lizards" have had a greater appeal than more approachable animals ever since Waterhouse Hawkins displayed his life-sized models at the Crystal Palace in the 1850s. They have become a kitsch craze, being used as symbols to market everything from life insurance to lavatory paper, with a different creature on each perforated sheet.

Why dinosaurs should fascinate is a question as puzzling as what song the Syrens sang. This does not inhibit conjecture. They are the most successful vertebrates to have lived on this planet so far, having survived for 140 million years, and making *Homo sapiens* a mayfly for longevity. They are the largest animals that have ever walked the Earth; and it is hard (as well as alarming) to imagine their record being beaten, without some unexpected chicanery in natural selection. Dinosaurs might be Jungian archetypes, programmed into human brains as primeval fears and fascinations: the dreadful dragons of the Garden of Eden. A child psychologist gave the simplest explanation of their peculiar appeal, when he said that they are big, fierce, and extinct.

Recent work at the dawn of terrestrial life has made dinosaurs more attractive than the dragons of folklore. Instead of monstrous behemoths so lumbered with superfluous weight that they had to live in slimy swamps, the latest anatomical calculations propose an alternative picture of herds of brontosauroids rampaging across the desert. Instead of the silly stegosau, laying her eggs and abandon-

ing them immediately because she did not understand what they were for, the recently named *maiasaura* has been identified as a good mother, brooding her babies.

Perhaps the greatest attraction of the dinosaurs for humans obsessed with mortality is the way, after so many millennia, they suddenly and silently vanished. The cause of this extinction is not yet clear. Crashing meteorites and catastrophic global dust clouds are the latest theories. Temperature changes, epidemics, and eating of dinosaur eggs by the first mammals have also been suggested.

In the present state of dinosaur art, the best guess is that a major cycle of mountain building in the Cretaceous Era changed the ecology of Earth so as to reduce the lowland areas where dinosaurs flourished. Continents broke up, the climate became wetter, vegetation changed. Dinosaurs, with huge bodies but tunnel vision, did not adapt. The decline of herbivorous dinosaurs would have been disastrous for the flesh-eaters that fed upon them. Whatever the cause, the mystery of their disappearance is part of dinosaur power. They are as potent a biological *memento mori* for ephemeral mankind as the literary symbol of *Ozymandias*.

The insoluble ambiguities of dinosaurs are part of their fascination. They are as potent symbolically today as they were physically 65 million years ago. And they are far more interesting for the young imagination than Mickey Mouse in Euro Disney. Not only are dinosaurs older and bigger than the pseudo-mouse. They pose fundamental questions of science, and even philosophy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Election hindsight: how the media and the pollsters got their forecasts wrong

From Mr Robin G. Hodgson

Sir, Many column inches are being devoted to explaining why experienced political journalists failed so signally to discern the underlying trends in voting intentions in the general election. From my perspective, there is a simple explanation — no real effort was made to talk to the voters.

In the West Midlands we have a high proportion of critical marginal seats. In past general elections, political journalists have joined our canvassing teams to "feel the pulse" on the doorstep. On this occasion, throughout the campaign, I met no journalists undertaking this work.

Instead, they seemed to prefer to talk to party headquarters, to candidates, to ministers and to each other as well as, presumably, to read the opinion polls. No doubt this is a more glamorous and effort-free existence than trudging from door to door with the party activists. But it does have one drawback, it means that they rarely, if ever, met the one person who really mattered — the individual voter.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN G. HODGSON
(Chairman, West Midlands area, National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations),
18 Milverton Terrace,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.
April 13.

From Dr Roger R. Dawson

Sir, During every election campaign since 1970 I have graphed every individual opinion poll.

In 1970 most of the final opinion polls wrongly predicted a Labour victory. In February 1974 they wrongly predicted a Conservative victory. In October 1974 they predicted a larger Labour victory than in fact occurred.

I submit that in each of these instances there is a specific reason why the polls were so wrong: I call it the "ought" factor.

The 1966-70 Labour government had struggled through some difficult years and the responsible chancellorship of Roy Jenkins was at last beginning to guide us towards the

light at the end of the tunnel. People felt that they "ought" to reward this responsibility and promise, so they told the polls that they would do so; but their hearts were not in it, they feared the same medicine and instead they voted for the new hope Ted Heath offered.

In February 1974 people felt they "ought" to vote for Ted Heath because he was fighting a war against chaos, so they told the polls they would; but in fact they voted for an easier life.

In October 1974 they felt they "ought" to vote for the Labour government that had ended the chaos, so they told the polls that they would; but many of them feared the consequences and did not do so.

In 1992 people felt they "ought" to vote for change and against the party that they saw as being responsible for the recession, so they told the polls that was what they would do; but instead they voted for their own pockets, together with individual freedom and opportunity, and against collectivism.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER R. DAWSON,
The Gables, Parsons Hill,
Hollisley, Woodbridge, Suffolk.
April 12.

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, One reason for the unreliability of the public opinion surveys (and of the media comment on them) during the general election campaign is that one significant group was almost ignored — those who did not support any party, either because they had not decided which one to vote for or because they had decided not to vote for any of them.

If the pollsters and pundits had made clear that during the course of the campaign the number of "don't knows" ranges from 20 to 40 per cent a necessary note of caution might have been added to their almost universally false predictions.

In the same way, one reason for the unreality of the discussion of the actual results of this general election (as of its predecessors) is that it still ignores the non-voters. After all, a consistently large number of reg-

istered electors don't vote, even in poll-dominated media-saturated general elections; and this time there was the additional factor of increased non-registration by poll tax non-payers.

If all the electors are taken into account, the true percentages in the 1992 general election are as follows: Conservative 32, Labour 27, non-voters 22, Liberal Democrat 14, nationalist 2, others 3. Thus the Conservatives still have the support of less than a third of the electorate, and all the anti-Conservative parties combined still have the support of less than half, so none of the parties or possible groups of parties can claim a real mandate for any of their policies.

Not all the non-voters are just "don't knows" or "don't cares"; some of them are "don't likes" and "won't votes". They are not just apathetic about politics, but also antipathetic to politicians, unconvinced by their policies and unimpressed by their propaganda, unsatisfied by the chance to cast a solitary vote for an undesirable candidate every few years, either believing that the political is the personal or else believing in a politics far wider than anything on offer.

They, too, should be taken into account if the views of all the British people are to be weighed rather than merely counted.

Yours etc.,
NICOLAS WALTER,
88 Islington High Street, N1.
April 13.

From Professor Peter T. Landsberg

Sir, The study of opinion polls is not like the natural sciences. In the latter we deal with inanimate matter, and our understanding becomes ever more accurate. In the study of opinion polls (on which there exists now an extensive literature), we deal with people.

People may be too shy to admit what their true voting intentions are; they may even wish to lull their political enemies into a false sense of security by claiming that they will vote for them, when they have no intention of doing so. This is the

"garden path effect", so named after the flop of the pollsters in the 1970 election (Leue, June 23, 1970).

If one person in one hundred lies to the pollsters, this represents already an error of 2 per cent. So an increasingly sophisticated public, somewhat tired of the polls, may play more and more games with the pollsters. The result? Surprise, surprise, here is one science which fails to get more accurate as time goes on.

Yours faithfully,
P. T. LANDSBERG,
The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1.
April 13.

From Mr Jim Latham

Sir, Richard Lamb is right (letter, April 11). It is still possible to predict accurately the result of an election without all the flashing lights of modern technology.

At 11.30pm on Thursday night, with four results in, John Barnes, a lecturer in politics and government at the London School of Economics, forecast a Conservative majority of 20, live on air, as a member of the BBC Radio Kent election panel.

The time was carefully noted and, though challenged and varying his prediction up and down by two or three during the rest of the programme, Mr Barnes stuck to his guns.

No computer and nothing up his sleeve, except superb knowledge of his subject.

Yours etc.,
JIM LATHAM
(Managing Editor),
BBC Radio Kent,
20-22 Watling Street,
Canterbury, Kent.
April 11.

From Mr Simon Stephens

Sir, Why all the confusion? The British public simply used the opinion polls to deliver a well-deserved reprimand to the Conservative party without paying the price of voting in the Labour party.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON STEPHENS,
Leander, Roman Landing,
West Wittering,
Chichester, West Sussex.

Labour changes

From Dr William Dorrell

Sir, The Labour party has changed its leader; it is time it changed its name as well. Today the world is no longer inspired by the dignity of Labour but by the efficacy of automation.

"The Something-or-Other Democratic party" has been pretty well used up. "The Progressive party" is a possibility but I prefer "The Reform party". It provides an antonym to the Conservatives and has comfortable historical associations giving it a bit of gravitas.

Of course members of the Reform Club will be miffed but you can't please everybody.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM DORRELL,
127 Dovehouse Street,
Chelsea, SW3.
April 13.

From Mr Graham Barton

Sir, When Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley took over the top two roles in the Labour party, it was described as "the dream ticket". Quite so.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM BARTON,
West Hill, Green Walk,
Bowdon, Cheshire.
April 12.

Secret lives

From Miss Sue Cook

Sir, I despaired when I read, in an otherwise excellent article ("Whose secret life is it anyway?", April 7) Janet Daley's comment on the artist and typographer Eric Gill's sexual abuse of his children: "the revelations... if true... provide a fascinating picture of a defiantly unconventional life."

Anyone who has counselled adult survivors of child sexual abuse (both men and women) will be aware of its terrible long-term effects, the total blighting of innocent young lives from

Zimbabwe drought

From the High Commissioner for Zimbabwe

Sir, It is regrettable that in the face of impending human suffering and misery as a result of the drought, Jan Raath ("Mugabe defied on South Africa", April 3), instead of highlighting the serious problem, chooses to find fault with the government of Zimbabwe, as if it had any control over the situation.

The drought in southern Africa this year is severe, and its effects devastating. It has not spared any country in the region. It has forced all of us to rely on imports from overseas for our staple food needs. It is estimated that altogether our countries need to import over 10 million tonnes of maize. Zimbabwe's share is estimated at 1.7 million tonnes of maize and 340,000 tonnes of wheat.

The importation of food on such a scale, naturally, has put enormous pressure on the road, rail and port facilities of South Africa and Mozambique, our only outlets to the sea. There is a danger that the whole

Arts challenge

From Sir John Terry

Sir, In August 1975 the then prime minister, Harold Wilson, appointed a working party, with me as chairman, "to consider the requirements of a viable and prosperous British film industry over the next decade".

One of the 39 separate recommendations contained in our report of December 1975 (Cmd. 6372) was that responsibility for film-as-an industry and film-as-an art should be centralised and that a single minister, to be responsible for the arts as a whole, should assume the functions of the various ministers concerned.

Following the resignation of Harold Wilson as prime minister during the early part of 1976 most of our recommendations regrettably came to nothing. But I am sure that Lord Wilson and the 12 surviving members of the 14-strong working party will welcome the appointment of Mr Mellor to the new cabinet with full responsibility for the arts (which I assume includes films, a vital part of our national heritage) and also for broadcasting, and wish him success in the challenging tasks which confront him.

Yours very truly,
JOHN TERRY,
5 Chancery Lane, Clifford's Inn, EC4.

the breaking crossing of the boundaries and breaking of trust, especially by a close relative such as a parent or grandparent.

Until we all recognise that this crime is one of an abuse of power over the most vulnerable and helpless of victims — children — and not an interesting literary footnote, we will continue to assume that it is a minor family peccadillo best left alone.

Yours faithfully,
SUE COOK,
Woods Place,
Whittington, East Sussex.
April 7.

system could be paralysed, resulting in delays in getting food to the people, if the whole exercise is not properly planned and co-ordinated.

Under these circumstances each country has had to set out clearly its priorities, and has followed this with meetings with government officials of Mozambique and South Africa, who carry the burden of ensuring that food leaves their ports for their destinations.

On our part, consultations were held and a decision taken to send the transport minister, Mr Dennis Norman, to meet his South African counterpart. For Jan Raath to claim that this decision by acting President Nkomo and the cabinet represented a rebuff of President Mugabe's policy on South Africa and his leadership generally is naive.

Contrary to Jan Raath's views, the Zimbabwe cabinet is not only firmly united in its policy towards South Africa but is equally determined to ensure that nothing will stand in the way of its immediate programme of getting food to its people, thereby preventing a disastrous food shortage.

Yours sincerely,
S. C. CHIKETA,
Zimbabwe House,
429 Strand, WC2.
April 9.

Taiwan economy

From Mr Jonathan Carr

Sir, In his letter of April 9 Dr Szeer praised the manner in which economic growth has been achieved in Japan and Taiwan over the last decade, suggesting that this has been greatly facilitated by providing equity of incentives for all citizens. Britain, he says, should learn from this.

The recent political experiences of Taiwan's inhabitants, combined with low wages, very hard work, a free market (with minimal government interference) and a tardiness in complying with some international trade agreements, have all contributed to the outstanding economic success of the island.

Now things are changing as the Taiwanese middle class increases in

number, expectations grow, labour rates rise and Taiwanese industry upgrades its technology while it watches low-wage manufacturing activities being shifted to other parts of South-East Asia.

I am not aware of any claims that government incentives to all its citizens in equitable measure lie at the heart of Taiwan's economic success story. Nor do I believe that introducing such measures now, laudable though they might be as a social measure if funds were available, would increase Taiwan's economic competitiveness.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN CARR,
36 Alyn Avenue, W4.
April 9.

Business letters, page 21

In the dock

From Mr M. J. Faraway

Sir, Mr Norman Macleod's plea (letter, April 1) for the abolition of the dock will be unlikely to find favour with those who design and furnish courts. Indeed, there is every likelihood that the dock in our courts will steadily come to resemble the structure which gave rise to the name, i.e., the Flemish *dok*: a cage, fowl-pen, rabbit-hutch. The OED suggests that our "dock" derives from sixteenth-century rogues' cant.

Due, I think, entirely to financial considerations, magistrates' courts are being encouraged to reconstruct their docks so that they will more closely resemble cages, albeit with

stainless steel and toughened glass. As one who has always felt unhappy about the stigmatising effect of the dock, I regard these moves as wholly undesirable. If security has to be ensured by employing police officers or security guards, then that is what courts should do.

I would welcome the support of the legal profession in resisting the process towards encagement and towards the abolition of the dock — except in special circumstances.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL FARAWAY
(Clerk to the Justices),
Redbridge Magistrates' Court,
The Court House,
850 Cranbrook Road,
Ilford, Essex.

Fun for some?

From Mr Alan H. Hooker

Sir, I was appalled to learn that "Comic Relief" is to be celebrated on Good Friday — the pivotal day on which the whole of our Christian religion depends. This should be a day when we spend a little time meditating and thinking about what our religion means.

Although the end results of the "celebration" bring relief to the suffering, why not choose Easter Monday — a day when we can truly celebrate the resurrection of our Saviour?

Yours truly,
ALAN HOOKER,
40 Shirley Gardens,
Rusthall,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
April 8.

Rail crossing safety

From Mr Philip L. Hartley

Sir, The latest unannounced rail-crossing accident has resulted in further repetition of the arguments for and against half-barriers (report, April 6; letter, April 10). British Rail still favours these as giving an escape route when a vehicle is trapped between the closed gates.

In order to meet concern about vehicles trapped between full barriers, could not completely closing gates be placed at over a full vehicle's length away from the rails, thus providing a refuge on either side of the crossing?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP L. HARTLEY,
Fairbrook, Carlton,
Saxmundham, Suffolk.

Cromwell statue

From the Steward of Peterhouse

Sir, In his article, "Raise a glass to the English revolution" (Saturday Review, April 4), Dr John Morrill claimed that a powerful myth about Cromwell was promoted in a statue of him "on horseback" outside the Palace of Westminster by the sculptor "Thornycroft".

But the statue, by Hamo Thornycroft, is not equestrian, and has none of the triumphalism implied by Dr Morrill. Perhaps he was confusing it with the swaggering equestrian statue nearby of Richard Coeur-de-Lion by Baron Carlo Marochetti.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WATKIN,
Peterhouse,
Cambridge.
April 7.

As time goes by

From Mr Victor Launert

Sir, Charles Bremner himself falls victim to the *Casablanca* curse (New York Notebook, April 9). Bogart did not say, "Play it, Sam. Play As Time Goes By"; those are Ingrid Bergman's words.

Maybe such problems don't amount to a hill of beans in this crazy world, but may I recommend that Mr Bremner watch this incomparable film once more. If he doesn't, he'll regret it: maybe not today, maybe not tomorrow, but soon, and for the rest of his life.

Yours faithfully,
V. LAUNERT,
15 Halford Road,
Richmond, Surrey.
April 9.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 13: The Rt Hon Kenneth Baker, MP, had an audience of the Queen this afternoon, delivered upon the Seals of Office, and took leave upon relinquishing his appointment as Secretary of State for the Home Department when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Member of the Order of Companions of Honour.

The Rt Hon Christopher Patten had an audience of the Queen this afternoon, delivered upon the Seals of Office, and took leave upon relinquishing his appointment as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The Rt Hon Peter Brooke, MP, had an audience of the Queen this afternoon, delivered upon the Seals of Office, and took leave upon relinquishing his appointment as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Member of the Order of Companions of Honour.

The Rt Hon John Major, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of the Queen this afternoon.

The Queen held a Council at five o'clock.

There were present: the Rt Hon Anthony Newton, MP, the Rt Hon Michael Heseltine, MP, the Rt Hon John Wakeham, MP, the Rt Hon John Gummer, MP, the Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind, MP, the Rt Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew, MP, the Rt Hon Michael Howard, MP, the Rt Hon David Mellor, MP, the Rt Hon William Waldegrave, MP, and the Rt Hon John Patten, MP.

Mrs Virginia Bottomley, MP, Mrs Gillian Shephard, MP, and Mr Michael Portillo, MP, were sworn in as Members of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

The Rt Hon Anthony Newton, MP, took the Oath of Office and kissed hands upon his appointment as Lord President of the Council.

The Rt Hon John Wakeham took the Oath of Office as Lord Privy Seal, kissed hands upon his appointment and received the Privy Seal.

The following took the Oath of Office, kissed hands upon appointment and received the Seals of Office: the Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke, MP (as Secretary of State for the Home Department), the Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind, MP (as Secretary of State for Defence),

the Rt Hon John Patten, MP (as Secretary of State for Education and Science), the Rt Hon Gillian Shephard, MP (as Secretary of State for Employment), the Rt Hon Michael Howard, MP (as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland), the Rt Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew, MP (as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry), the Rt Hon John Gummer, MP (as Secretary of State for Transport), the Rt Hon William Waldegrave, MP (as Secretary of State for Health), and the Rt Hon David Mellor, MP (as Secretary of State for National Heritage).

After the Council the Rt Hon William Waldegrave, MP, had an audience of the Queen, who was sworn Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, kissed hands upon his appointment and received from Her Majesty the Seals of Office.

Mr Geoffrey de Deney (Clerk of the Council) and Mr Robert Bulling (Deputy Clerk of the Council) were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 13: The Princess of Wales, Pádraic, this morning opened the Dinosaur Gallery at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, London SW7.

Wing Commander David Barton, RAF, was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 13: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were present this evening at a performance given by the Bolshoi Ballet in aid of the Bud Flanagan Leukaemia Fund and the Children's Leukaemia Trust at the Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, London W1.

Mrs Michael Wigley and Major Nicholas Barne were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 13: The Duchess of Kent this afternoon visited Trinity House, Clapham SW4.

Mrs Julian Tomkins was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
April 13: Princess Alexandra this afternoon visited HMS Broadsword (Commander Nicholas Hudson, RN) in the Pool of London.

The Lady Mary Muntford and Rear Admiral Sir John Garnier were in attendance.

Memorial service
The Rev Lady Alison Stewart-Patterson
A service of thanksgiving for the life of the Rev Lady Alison Stewart-Patterson was held yesterday at Cullinstown Abbey, Killybeggs, Co. Londonderry, at 11.30 am.

The Rev Robert Henderson gave an address.

During the service Mr Andrew Armstrong, Master of Music at Dunfermline Abbey, played Lady Alison's favourite hymn, "The Morning in the Dawning".



VETERANS from the first world war were again yesterday at the last full reunion of the Royal Flying Corps, which became the Royal Air Force in 1918.

Thirteen men met at Netheravon airfield on Salisbury Plain to mark the 80th anniversary of the formation of the world's first air force. The airman, aged between 90 and 100, inspected an SE 5 biplane which flew in 1917, two replicas, and a Sopwith Pup that was twice shot down over the Somme.

They were given flights in Army Air Corps helicopters over Netheravon. But there was some disappointment that the wind was too strong to allow flights in the old biplanes.

"The trip in the helicopter was very enjoyable, but I think it would have been more exciting in the open cockpit of an SE 5," said Squadron Leader Gerald Dixon, of Worthing, Sussex.

Squadron Leader Dixon (right) is seen chatting with Charles Baker (left) and Ernest Tomkins in front of a Sopwith Pup.

Anniversaries
BIRTHS: Onethus, cartographer of the first atlas, Antwerp, 1527; Christian Huygens, physicist, The Hague, 1629; William Henry Bonning, 3rd Duke of Portland, Prime Minister 1783, 1807-09; Bulstrode, Bucks, 1738; Peter Behrens, architect, Hamburg, 1868.

DEATHS: Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick (the Kingmaker), killed at the Battle of Barnet, 1471; George Frederic Handel, composer, 1759; William Whitehead, Poet Laureate, 1757-85; London, 1785; L. Zamenhof, creator of Esperanto, the universal language, 1917; Louis Sullivan, architect, Chicago, 1924; Vladimir Mayakovsky, poet and dramatist, 1928; Ernest Benn, trades unionist, Foreign Secretary 1945-51, London, 1951; Frederic March, actor, Los Angeles, 1975; Simone de Beauvoir, writer, 1986.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, 16th American President, was born by John Wilkes Booth in Washington; he died the following day, 1865.

New recorders
The following to be recorders, assigned to the North Eastern Circuit: Mr Clive Owen John Behrens, Mr Stuart Christopher Brown, QC, Mr Patrick Joseph Cosgrove, Mr Michael Teape Fugard, Mr Arthur John Hesley, Mr William Stephen John Hogg, Mr Christopher John Holland, QC, Mr Aidan Stephen Marron, Mr John Stout Westminster.

Supplementary List (Medium Career)
Mr J. J. Hooton and Mrs V. A. Anderson
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs James Hooton, of Tenenden, Kent, and Victoria, younger daughter of the late Henry Hildyard and of Mrs Hildyard, of Whitchampton, Dorset.

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The engagement is announced between Graham, third son of Major and Mrs Michael Paxton, of Caversham, Berkshire, and Karen, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs Edward J. Podemski, of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Norfolk, Virginia, USA. The marriage will take place in New York on May 2, 1992.

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Forthcoming marriages

Dr S.M. Bonner and Miss M.A. Jenkins
The engagement is announced between Dr Stephen Michael Bonner, of Durham, and Miss Mary-Anne Jenkins, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Jonathan Jenkins, of Sevenoaks, Kent.

Mr S.A. Carter and Miss A.M. Gorman
The engagement is announced between Stephen Andrew Carter, of Edinburgh, and Miss Maria, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs K. Gorman, Melbourne, Australia.

Mr W. Farmer and Miss F.J. Dawson
The engagement is announced between William, eldest son of Mr John Farmer, of Rochampton Vale, and of Mrs Julia Farmer, of Barnes, and Fiona, daughter of Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs Reginald Dawson, of Bantle, East Sussex.

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HRH Prince Paul of Romania and Miss T. Papahianou
The engagement is announced between HRH Prince Paul of Romania, eldest son of HRH Prince Carol of Romania and Mrs Helene de Roumanie, and Miss T. Papahianou, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs Phocion S. Papahianou, of Athens, Greece.

Mr R.E. Pearce and Miss S.F.J. Nash
The engagement is announced between Rupert, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R.E. Pearce, of Fernhill Heath House, Worcester, and Sarah, only daughter of the late Mr and Mrs J.F. Nash, of the Manor House, Burton Latimer.

Mr D.A. Sinyard and Miss M.L. Dunsmuir
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr B.G. Sinyard and Mrs E.I. Parker, and Miranda, daughter of Colonel James Dunsmuir and Mrs Sarah Dunsmuir.

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The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Mr Lionel Stoford Sackville, of Drayton, Northamptonshire, and Miss S. McKinney, of Ripe, Sussex, and Shona, youngest daughter of Mrs Philip Haran, of Cadogan Gardens, London, and the late Donald McKinney, CBE, of Nassau, Bahamas.

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OBITUARIES

DANIEL BOVET

Daniel Bovet, an Italian physiologist who won a Nobel Prize in 1957, died on April 8 aged 85. He was born on March 23, 1907.

DANIEL BOVET was involved in three of the most important drug developments of the twentieth century. As a young researcher at the Pasteur Institute in Paris in the 1930s he explained the functioning of the anti-histamine drugs. Later he discovered the anti-histamine as treatments for allergic reactions, and pioneered the use of curare as a muscle-relaxant in surgery.

Bovet was born in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, the son of an educational psychologist. He studied zoology and was awarded his doctorate at the University of Geneva in 1929. At the Pasteur Institute he followed up the discovery of the German biochemist

Gerhard Domagk that a synthetic dye called Protosil had remarkable effects against streptococcus infections in mice. Domagk proved its effectiveness in the most dramatic way possible by injecting the dye into his young daughter Hildegard to save her life after she had become infected by the prick of a needle.

Curiously, while the dye would kill streptococci in the body, it had no effect on the same bugs in the test tube. Bovet concluded that Protosil must be being transformed into some other substance in the body, proba-

bly by the disintegration of its molecule. By mimicking the process outside the body he was able to show that the active component was sulfa-nilamide, synthesised at the Pasteur Institute in 1936. This was the first of the "wonder drugs" that have since transformed the treatment of bacterial infections.

In 1937 Bovet began work on compounds to control some of the symptoms of allergic conditions such as hay fever. Knowing that allergic reactions in the body release a compound called histamine, Bovet searched for drugs that would block its effect. His plan was a brilliant success and gave rise to a series of anti-histamine drugs which, while not curing allergies, make their symptoms considerably more bearable.

In 1947 Bovet was offered the post of head of the department of pharmacology at the Istituto Superiore di Sanita in Rome, where he worked with his wife, Filomena Nitti. There he studied curare, the poison used by South American Indians to coat the tips of their arrows and beloved of the writers of whodunnits. The effect of curare is to paralyse the muscles, including that of the heart, which is why it is so effective. With suitable modification and in the right doses, Bovet showed that it could be used simply to relax the muscles without killing, in which form it proved useful in surgical operations. For his work on anti-histamines and curare, Bovet was awarded the 1957 Nobel Prize for medicine and physiology.

Bovet is survived by a widow and a son.

PROFESSOR HYWEL LEWIS

Hywel David Lewis, professor of the History and Philosophy of Religion in the University of London, died on April 8 aged 81. He was born on May 21, 1910.

IT IS debatable whether philosophy and religion be friends or foes, but for Hywel D. Lewis there was no doubt that they should be mutually supportive. Scepticism about that view can be found in both theological and philosophical camps, but Lewis remained staunch in his defence of it and untiring in his efforts to explore its ramifications. His voluminous contributions to academic discussion in this area over many years earned him an enviable international reputation.

Not that he lacked other interests. He worked enthusiastically to help the present Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos defeat Lady Megan Lloyd George to capture the Anglesey seat for Labour in 1951. Indeed, his first publications, *Gweriniaeth* (Democracy, 1940) and (with Dr J. A. Thomas) *Y Wladwriaeth a'i Hwylfardd* (The State and its Authority, 1943) investigated, in Welsh, the concepts of democracy, state and authority.

After what he used to describe as undistinguished progress at school in Caernarfon Lewis went to the University College of North Wales, Bangor, where he developed a consuming interest in philosophy. While there he came under the lasting influence of the teaching of C. A. Campbell, and after a further period of study in Oxford, he returned as a popular and stimulating lecturer in the department of philosophy at Bangor, where he also became professor in 1947. He left in 1955 to take the chair of history and philosophy of religion at King's College, London, a position which he



held until his retirement. His *Morals and the New Theology* (1947) is a trenchant attack on Barthelemy's theology according to which sinful man is utterly incapable of apprehending a transcendent divinity and is entirely dependent on divine revelation for any knowledge of god. As the title of his later work, *Our Experience of God* (1959) would indicate, Lewis held that consciousness of the divine is rooted in experience and can be elicited by rational reflection on aesthetic and moral considerations. Later, his interest came to centre especially on problems about the nature of the subject of experience—the self of whose immortality he was deeply convinced. The relevant philosophical and theological issues are vigorously argued in his books, *The Self and*

Immortality (1973) and *Persons and Life after Death* (1978). Lewis's work rapidly acquired world-wide recognition, as evidenced by his many visiting professorships both in America and at universities in the eastern hemisphere. Nearer home, he was chosen to give the Wilde Lectures at Oxford, and the prestigious Gifford Lectures at St Andrews. Moreover, he founded, and for many years edited, the very successful journal, *Religious Studies*. And as though this were not enough for a man of his slender build and stature, Lewis also served as president of several academic bodies such as the Oxford Society for Historical Theology, the London Society for the Study of Religion and the International Society for Metaphysics.

Lewis was equally industrious on the philosophical front, being editor of the *Muirhead Library of Philosophy* (1947-78), *Contemporary British Philosophy*, Vol III (1956), Vol IV (1976), and *Clarity is Not Enough* (1962). Though critical of some aspects of his idealist background, he was even more vigorously opposed to the logical empiricist developments which swept the Western philosophical scene under the influence of Russell, Wittgenstein and Quine among others. Lewis fearlessly defended the dualism of mind and body against the strong materialist currents of the day in *The Elusive Mind* (1969) and elsewhere. He argued for an objective view of ethics in his *Morals and the New Theology* (1947), a view which he linked with an anti-determinist emphasis on free will. He was duly honoured in philosophical circles, being president of the Mind Association (1948-49), of the Aristotelian Society (1962-63), and chairman of the council of the Royal Institute of Philosophy (1965-68).

Lewis wrote and lectured extensively in his mother tongue—*Diogelu Ddiplanti* (The Defence of Culture, 1945), *Gwybod am Dduw* (Knowing about God, 1952), and *Pwy yw Crist?* (Who is Christ?, 1979) being but a sample of his Welsh publications. He served on several public and academic bodies in Wales. As a philosopher Lewis thrived on opposition: he was immovable on matters of conviction. On academic councils and committees in the University of Wales he could be fiercely combative in pursuing his aims. He would be the last to lose a cause without a fight. He is survived by his wife, Megan, whom he married in 1965, having lost his first wife, also named Megan, three years earlier.

LEUEEN MacGRATH

Leueen MacGrath, stage actress, died in London on March 27 aged 77. She was born in London on July 3, 1914.

FOR Leueen MacGrath the stage always took precedence over the screen. She appeared in only a handful of films, her most important role being in the indifferent *Edward, My Son*, the film version of one her greatest stage successes in the play co-written by Robert Morley. A small part much earlier in the much more impressive *Pygmalion* was the only other notable screen appearance. But whether London took precedence over Broadway is a much more debatable matter. Her career, which ran from the early 1930s until the mid 1970s was split about equally between the two.

Leueen MacGrath's training was entirely British. She was the daughter of a military family and took the familiar route to the stage via RADA, where one of her contemporaries was the director Frith Banbury. She appeared in a number of modest pre-war West End plays before coming to more general notice in Terence Rattigan's early comedy *French Without Tears*. She was not in the original cast, but took over the part of Jacqueline from Jessica Tandy during the run. This was the start of a link with Rattigan. She was again brought in during the run of the wartime drama, *Flare Path*. Much later Rattigan remembered her when he wrote *Bequest to the Nation* (1970) and cast her as Lady Nelson.

The American playwright and director George S. Kaufman was the third and by far the most distinguished and influential of her five hus-

bands. He first directed her in a now forgotten play by Jean Giraudoux, *The Enchanted* (1951). It scarcely seemed natural material for the witty Kaufman and could not be described as a roaring success on Broadway. But the MacGrath-Kaufman partnership flourished both on and off stage. Together they wrote a couple of modest comedies, one of which was *Fanny Meeting You Again* and, more importantly, they combined on the libretto for the musical *Silk Stockings* (based on the Lubitsch-Garbo movie *Ninotchka*), although Abe Burrows was brought in to apply the finishing touches.

Leueen MacGrath made her return to the West End in June 1955 in another Giraudoux play, *La Guerre de Troie n'aura pas lieu*, which ran under the less imaginative English title of *Tiger at the Gates*. It was a starring vehicle for Michael Redgrave as Hector, but MacGrath made a powerful impression as Cassandra, a role she repeated on Broadway.

Her last major West End appearance was in John Mortimer's memoir of his blind barrister parent, *A Voyage Round My Father*, with Alec Guinness in the lead. Practically all Leueen MacGrath's work had been done in contemporary plays—the world outside France was only just discovering Giraudoux in the 1950s. But on her return to New York she found a new interest in the theatre of Ibsen and Chekhov. There were notable performances in *The Cherry Orchard* and as Mrs Alving in *Ghosts*. But her taste for acting was fading and she preferred to spend her evenings entertaining her friends and being entertained.



CHRISTOPHER PRIDAY

Christopher Priday, QC, barrister, died on March 26 aged 65. He was born on August 7, 1926.

CHRISTOPHER Priday became an authority in the field of agricultural law, on which he published and lectured widely. After he took Silk in 1966 his influence on both the legal and the surveyor's professions extended remarkably. He was one of the principal negotiators on behalf of the Bar when the Bar Council agreed with about a dozen other professions the basis on which barristers would accept direct instructions from professional clients other than solicitors.

From 1980 until this year he was chairman of the direct professional access committee of the Bar Council, and he played a major part in drafting the direct professional access rules. Particularly in the property world, they are reducing the cost of obtaining specialist legal advice and in the process are transforming the practices of decades.

After education at Radley and University College, Oxford, Priday served a stern apprenticeship as junior to Harold Heathcote Williams in editing *Fox's Law of Landlord & Tenant*, the classic textbook of his day. This

grounding, allied to his personal qualities ensured a steady growth in his practice to 1985, when he was elected head of the country's leading landlord and tenant chambers.

Priday served on many committees of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and on the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers, and he was an active member of the Agricultural Law Association.

He was made an honorary associate of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and an honorary fellow of the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers (each of them a rare honour for a lawyer). He became a Bencher of Gray's Inn in 1989, and chairman of the Bar accommodation committee in 1991.

He was engaged at the time of his sudden death in harmonising the estates policies of the four Inns of Court and at the same time in meeting the Bar's demands—wholly foreseeable in the light of current disputes with the Lord Chancellor about fees—that the Inns should charge lower rates.

Priday was a likeable man of integrity, with rock-solid judgment and a capacity for taking pains.

Wing-Commander Edward Ralph Smouha, OBE, died at his home in Geneva on April 1 aged 83. He was born in Manchester on December 17, 1908.

IN ALEXANDRIA, Ralph Smouha's family name, given to a now populous district, is a living reminder of what he helped to achieve there. His father, Joseph, his brother, Ellis, and he created a garden city—Wahy—on the outskirts of what then, with its splendid seafront and sandy beaches, was still the pearl of the eastern Mediterranean.

In 1892, Joseph Smouha, a young Sephardi Jew, came from Baghdad to Manchester where he soon established himself as a highly successful cotton broker. On the outbreak of the first world war he closed his office to become a government financial adviser, later being sent in that capacity to the British embassy in Cairo. In 1919 his wife and four of his six children followed him.

One day, arriving by train in Alexandria, he noticed how the city's growing Sidi Gaber locality was sandwiched between the sea and marshes. This, he found, was because a dyke holding back the waters of a lake had been demolished to flood lower adjoining land during the 1801 battle in which British forces defeated the French.

On investigating, Joseph Smouha became convinced that the area, a mere mile or so from the city centre, could be drained. Leaving government service, he stayed on in Egypt and bought up much of the marsh and adjoining land. On paper at least, Smouha City was born.

Teddy, then 21, joined the family enterprise in 1929 after qualifying as a barrister-at-law at Lincoln's Inn. At Cambridge (Madras), he had distinguished himself in athletics as Britain's youngest Olympic medalist in the



4 X 100-metre relay team that gained a bronze in the 1928 Amsterdam games.

A natural linguist, he took easily to Alexandrian life with its then cosmopolitan mix of races and religions. He ensured that plans for the reclaimed land included, apart from large residential and light industry areas, racing and golf courses, tennis courts and a sports club.

With three years in the university OTC and subsequent flying experience, he was called up in September 1939 while holidaying with his family in Derbyshire. They drove across France almost non-stop to catch a ship for Alexandria. Posted to RAF headquarters in Cairo as an acting pilot officer on probation, he was a wing commander in Transport Command before the end of 1942. On being demobilised in 1946, he rejoined

his aging father in developing Smouha City.

A decade later, he was recalled to active service during the Suez crisis and assigned to Cyprus. The Smouha family left Egypt just before the invasion and did not return; their property was sequestered. That they eventually received compensation from President Nasser's government was due to Joseph Smouha having insisted on paying a fair price, and obtaining proper legal title, for marshland regarded as worthless by the city authorities. They had told him he could have it "for almost nothing", an offer he had prudently refused.

Because of lingering local appreciation, the name Smouha—without "city"—survived the storm of post-Suez anger when so many places were stripped of their earlier names, such as Mohammed Aly Square (now Al-Tahrir), Allenby (Kafar Abdoh), Granville (Al-Mal-ab). While the racecourse and sports club remain, much of Smouha has long since been given over to low-cost flats in efforts to house a soaring population.

In 1957 the family established itself in Geneva where Teddy Smouha went, appropriately, into land development. Retiring in 1983, he thereafter gave his full energies to the Swiss branch of the RAF Association, whose president he had been for several years, and to various charities, to whom he was a discreet benefactor. His interventions at meetings were to the point; he knew what he wanted and often got it. The Swiss branch of the association, with fewer than 200 members, consistently contributed more than most.

Teddy Smouha's greatest pleasure was family holidays. He went caravanning in Ireland and Scotland and last summer he was again in the sea on the west coast. He leaves a widow, Yvonne, née Ades, two sons (the younger, Brian, at present the BCCI liquidator) and a daughter.

Forces' appointments

Royal Navy
COMMODORE J J Blackham - Ark Royal in CND 8.9.92.
CAPTAIN: T D Elliott - MOD London 11.4.92; P Spencer - MOD London in CND of CDR 18.9.92.
COMMANDER: R J M Ayres - Clyde Naval Base 15.5.92; J W Perquair - MOD London 25.6.92; C H Leonard - MOD Bath 21.10.92; R A J McLean - Staff of FONA in rank of Captain 19.6.92.
SURGEON COMMANDER: A Yates - RNH Harbair 18.8.92.
SURGEON COMMANDER (DR): M D Hocking - DYME 12.5.92.
CHAPLAIN: P A Donnivan - Dartmouth 19.6.92.
Retirements
SURGEON COMMANDER: D J Baker 15.4.92.
The Army
BRIGADIER J G W Dean - to RMAS 15.4.92.
COLONELS: J Anderson to BMH Rintin at Co. 20.4.92; Col R C Menzies to RAM College as Director Pathology 25.6.92.
LIEUTENANT COLONELS: M J Croyde REME - to DEE Andover LEAD 13.4.92; D Elliot 12.10.92 to HQ the Light Div 13.4.92; J Johnston RASC - to 26 Comd Fin 17.4.92; HQ 8 Sig Regt 13.4.92; P W C Reid RA - to DEE Andover LEAD 13.4.92; J J Whitaker RASC - to AFO 10th Armd Div 13.4.92; J Vennor REME - to Co 20 Army BN and Andover 13.4.92; M C Wilkinson RASC - to 8 Sig Regt 13.4.92; M C Post Cooper GARRN - to MOD 20.4.92.
Retirements
COLONELS: R J Martin, late ORH 10.4.92; M A Nolan, late RESV 20.4.92.
LIEUTENANT COLONEL: M C Thompson RANC 26.4.92.
Royal Air Force
AIR COMMODORE A J Bentley - to MOD 13.4.92.

Today's royal engagements

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will visit the Queen Alexandra Hospital Home, Cliffton House, Worthing, at 3.00.
The Duke of York, as president, will present the Royal Aero Club medals and awards at the Lansdowne Club at 6.30; and will present the 1992 Young Electronic Designer Awards at the Science Museum at 8.00.
Princess Margaret will dine at Lincoln's Inn at 7.15 with the Treasurer and past Treasurers.
The Duke of Gloucester will open the *Castles in Northamptonshire* exhibition in Rockingham at noon; will visit the Sue Ryder Home, Thorpe Hall, Peterborough, at 2.55; will visit the Cancer Research Campaign Shop, Peterborough, at 4.00; and, with the Duchess of Gloucester, will attend the Consular Corps of London's annual dinner at the Hyatt Carlton Tower hotel at 7.30.
Princess Alexandra will visit the Burrell Collection at 1.30; will open the new veterinary centre of the PDSA at Muirbyrd Drive, Glasgow, at 2.30; and will attend a reception given by the Scottish Council of Sight Savers (Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind) at the City Chambers at 3.45.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Michael Welch, Vicar, St Barnabas, Swanmore, and Rural Dean of Bishop's Waltham: to be also an Honorary Canon of Portsmouth Cathedral (Pomfret).
The Rev Paul White, Rector, Christ Church, Queneyan, Canberra and Goulburn, Australia: to be Vicar, St Mauew's, Redhill (Southwark).
The Rev Paul Wilkinson, Vicar, Poterneau, Worren and Marston: to be also part-time Chaplain, Roundway Hospital, Devizes (Salisbury).
The Rev Canon John Wilson, Vicar, Ormsley, Saratry to be a Canon Emeritus of Norwich Cathedral (Norwich).
The Rev Alan Woods, Vicar, Calne and Blackland, and Rural Dean of Calne: to be also a non-residential Canon of Salisbury Cathedral (Salisbury).
Resignations and retirements
The Rev Christopher Parsons, Priest-in-charge, St Ender (Truro): to retire as from 31 May.
The Rev Anne Quilliam, Assistant Minister, St Philemon, Tonxeth (Liverpool): to retire as from 30 April.

Latest wills

Sir Cyril Wilson Black, of London SW19, former Conservative MP, left estate valued at £1,361,660 net.
Mr Max Jaffa, of London NW8, violinist and leader of the BBC Palm Court Orchestra, left estate valued at £186,106 net.
Mr John Bradshaw Wood, of Chelsea, formerly deputy director of the Institute of Economic Affairs, left estate valued at £810,831 net.
General Sir Joseph Howard Nigel Poet, of Great Durnford, Wiltshire, former commander of the Staff College, Camberley, left estate valued at £324,877 net.
Sir William Francis Beale, of Woodborough, Pewsey, Wiltshire, former chairman of the Naafi, left estate valued at £587,489 net.
Mrs Joan Nightingale Kleinwort, of Haywards Heath, West Sussex, left estate valued at £2,260,884 net.
Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Mr Bernard Alan Baldwin, of Canford Cliffs, Dorset, £1,988,932.
Daphne Elizabeth Wood-Jones, of New Milton, Hampshire, £1,365,243.
Mr Samuel Henry Rendall Clarke, of Lymington, Hampshire, 1965,645.

ON THIS DAY 1900

Between 1899 and 1900 the Australian public subscribed to equip nearly 4,000 men and over 6,000 horses for Citizens' Bushmen to serve in the Boer War. Later a regiment called the Imperial Bushmen was formed.

AUSTRALIA
From Our New South Wales Correspondent
SYDNEY, March 6: Our 500 Bushmen embarked last Wednesday. The day was cloudy and dull and that somewhat kept down the crowd in the streets, but there was no lack of popular enthusiasm, and the men had as hearty a send-off as they could possibly wish.

There was no mistaking the general feeling. This is not a party movement or a class movement. There is a general recognition of the fact that the mother country has been forced into a fight to hold her own, and Australia backs her own. A great deal too has been due to the fact that the men whom we have already seen in the front have done well and shown their special fitness for the outpost duty to which they have been mostly appointed.

When the first lot were offered the remark was frequently heard that they were not wanted in Africa for any real help that they could give, but for the moral influence that the co-operation of the colonies would furnish. Now that remark is heard no longer since it has been found that our mounted men are adapted for the special function and that more of them would be welcome.

The Bushmen's Contingent is admittedly to some extent an experiment. All the men we have previously sent have had some training as soldiers, and though not up to the European standard had learned something of the rudiments of their profession. It is not pretended that these Bushmen are in any proper sense of the word soldiers, though it is quite expected that they will prove useful adjuncts to the Regular Army. They have not been drawn from our military force as such, and they have only had a very short drill, but they are good riders and fair average shots.

They have an eye for country, they can take their landmarks as they go, they will not lose themselves, or get afraid of doing so, if they should happen to be left alone. They are patient of fatigue, can spend all day in the saddle, camp out at night, and at a pinch subsist on rough diet and a minimum allowance even of that. From the accounts that have come to us, meagre as they are in details, it is clear that if our generals had had such a force at their disposal from the very beginning of the war they might have been better informed and have saved some reverses and many lives.

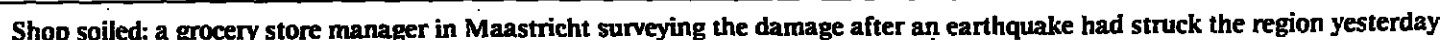
Since this Bushmen's Contingent embarked our Government has received a fresh request for more men, and it is not anticipated that there will be any difficulty in supplying them. The men who failed to pass the severe riding and shooting tests more than 300 have remained in the camp, where they have been undergoing steady drill.

If it had been known from the first that the men whom we sent as infantry were likely to be required to act as a mounted corps we should have taken pains to send only men who could ride, but the instructions were so positive that infantry was the force that would be the most suitable that the riding capabilities of the men were not taken into consideration at all, and it is not every Australian who has been accustomed to horses from childhood. The demand for men of special bush experience is one we have been able to meet by reason of our widely extended pastoral enterprise, and we can send away a thousand men without in the slightest degree trenching on our regular defence force.

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

The stakes are high. The "interim" government will probably hold power for a long time, given that elections in Afghanistan are impossible, despite the UN's insistence that they be held in due

It is clear that none of the three republics to the north — Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan — has any interest in embracing their ethnic brothers in Afghanistan too closely.



Although severe earthquakes in the region are rare, the so-called Peil Edge, which runs along the valley of the Maas, is a recognised geological fault, which makes it one of Europe's most active areas. In 1756, the town of Duren between Aachen and Cologne was the epicentre of a quake comparable to the one yesterday. Others nearly

Property damaged, page 10

He gave the Labour party advice about the leadership election, saying: "Do not feed and do not believe the press and broadcasting media in their reporting of these events." Mr Kinnock said his



Hattersley: will step down as deputy in June



Kinnock's triumphs, page 2
Full statement, page 2
Patricia Hewitt, page 12
Diary, page 12
Leading article, page 13
Letters, page 13
Media, L&T section, page 7

HMS Vanguard, the first Trident submarine, is due to start sea trials this year. It was launched in March at the VSEL shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness, and is to come into service in late 1994 or early 1995. The Polaris submarines will be phased out as the next Trident boats are handed over to the navy.

ACROSS

- 1 Secure contract (5).
- 4 Gluttony, perhaps, when lady dines out (6,3).
- 9 Have a fluter with relish, holding back inside information (9).
- 10 Passes for half a dozen soldiers (5).
- 11 Drive around motorway to expose beginner (5).
- 12 Organised team drill – a monotony routine (9).
- 13 Sailor gets sole or other sea food (7).
- 15 Novel Moroccan law officer (7).
- 18 Shown, as films may be (7).
- 20 He picks up fag-end, getting thinner (7).
- 21 Expert around court is accompanied (9).
- 22 The point in an action to break off (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,891

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | D | I | C | A | T | I | O | N | C | H | E | F |
| G | E | O | U | T | A | R | | | | | | | |
| A | U | T | O | M | O | B | I | L | E | A | R | E | |
| R | E | P | E | M | S | B | U | | | | | | |
| O | N | E | R | L | E | A | S | H | O | L | D | | |
| G | T | H | E | N | A | M | O | U | | | | | |
| A | M | E | T | H | Y | S | A | M | O | R | A | L | |
| R | E | S | B | S | E | | | | | | | | |
| D | R | A | I | N | S | J | E | T | T | I | S | O | |
| S | C | D | V | A | R | P | | | | | | | |
| H | O | R | S | E | A | I | R | E | P | I | C | | |
| A | O | D | L | S | N | S | | | | | | | |
| R | A | N | K | C | O | C | K | A | S | N | O | O | |
| P | Y | U | I | E | Z | I | | | | | | | |
| S | O | M | E | G | R | A | N | K | S | H | A | F | |

- 25 Join in fun — it exhilarates (5).
- 26 Join in supervision (9).
- 27 Arrogant soldier returned and took command after start of battle (3-6).
- 28 Guide animal (5).

DOWN

- 1 Entrance to international match inclusive of tax (9).
- 2 Bloomer by workers' mouthpiece (5).
- 3 Family treasures appear vague in sound broadcasts (9).
- 4 One called up to a platform in the round (7).
- 5 Develop sea legs — like Peter Pan, say (7).
- 6 Was quick to put up poor wretch (5).
- 7 Place in sun Scipio contrived — that's the suggestion (9).

air intake (5).
14 Copying setting: for ring with attractive result (9).
16 Monarch invades: cuts out manoeuvres (9).
17 A ferret that is trained as a circus performer; possibly (4-5).
19 Harsh noise from dance centre over the way? (7).
20 Gallery set on closure gets unexpected gift (7).
21 Sound fruit, reportedly (5).
22 Note about fringe subject (5).
24 Fish from the corner (5).

Couise Crossword, page 9
A life & Times section

ORBITIC
a. Wealthy
b. Otherworldly fiction
c. World-making
EDACIOUS
a. Eating a lot
b. Furnished with teeth
c. Slaughtering
PACHINKO
a. A Japanese slot machine
b. A Chinese Amerindian cross
c. The purple grapefruit
CHELONIAN
a. A rapid swimmer
b. Fishlike with claws
c. To do with tortises

Answers on page 14

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 401 followed by the end/000818 code

| | |
|---|-----|
| London & Sic | |
| C London (with N & S Cros) | 731 |
| M-ways/roads M4-M1 | 732 |
| M-ways/roads M1 Dartford T | 733 |
| M-ways/roads Dartford T4-M23 | 734 |
| M-ways/roads M23-M4 | 735 |
| M25 London Orbital only | 736 |
| National | |
| National motorways | 737 |
| West Country | 738 |
| Wales | 739 |
| Midlands | 740 |
| East Angles | 741 |
| North-west England | 742 |
| North-east England | 743 |
| Scotlands | 744 |
| Northern Ireland | 745 |
| AA Roadwatch is charged at 35p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times. | |

[illegible]

* denotes figures are latest available

TOURIST RATES

| | Bank Dollars | Bank Gulles |
|------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1979 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 1980 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 1981 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 1982 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 1983 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 1984 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 1985 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 1986 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 1987 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 1988 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 1989 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 1990 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 1991 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 1992 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 1993 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 1994 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
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| 1996 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 1997 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 1998 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 1999 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2000 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2001 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2002 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2003 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2004 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2005 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2006 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2007 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2008 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2009 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2010 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2011 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2012 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2013 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2014 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2015 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2016 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2017 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2018 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2019 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2020 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2021 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2022 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2023 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2024 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2025 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2026 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2027 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2028 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2029 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2030 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2031 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2032 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2033 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2034 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
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| 2039 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2040 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
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| 2074 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
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| 2077 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2078 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
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| 2080 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2081 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2082 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2083 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2084 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2085 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2086 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| 2087 | 1.00 | |

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| Australia \$ | 50.95 | 2,210 |
| Austria Sch | 27.45 | 19.85 |
| Belgium Fr | 62.80 | 38.00 |
| Denmark Kr | 11.73 | 11.04 |
| Finland Mk | 8.43 | 1,703 |
| France F | 20.45 | 1,000 |
| Germany Dm | 3.04 | 2.84 |
| Greece Dr | 354.00 | 323.00 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| Ireland Pf | 1.135 | 1.085 |
| Italy Lira | 2270.00 | 2140.00 |
| Japan Y | 236.00 | 240.00 |
| Netherlands Gld | 3.416 | 3.180 |
| Norway Kr | 11.55 | 11.10 |
| Poland Zl | 260.00 | 240.00 |
| Port. Africa Rs | 200.00 | 145.00 |
| Spain Ps | 168.75 | 175.75 |
| Sweden Kr | 2.19 | 2.05 |
| Switzerland Fr | 7.19 | 6.85 |
| Turkey Lira | 11550.0 | 10500.0 |
| U.K. £ | 1.55 | 1.55 |
| Yugoslavia Dnr | 200.0 | 190.0 |

Rates for local denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank, PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

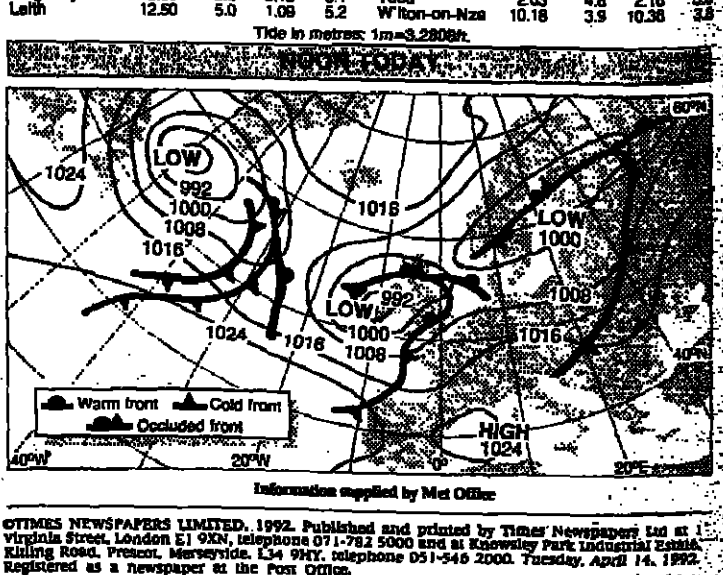
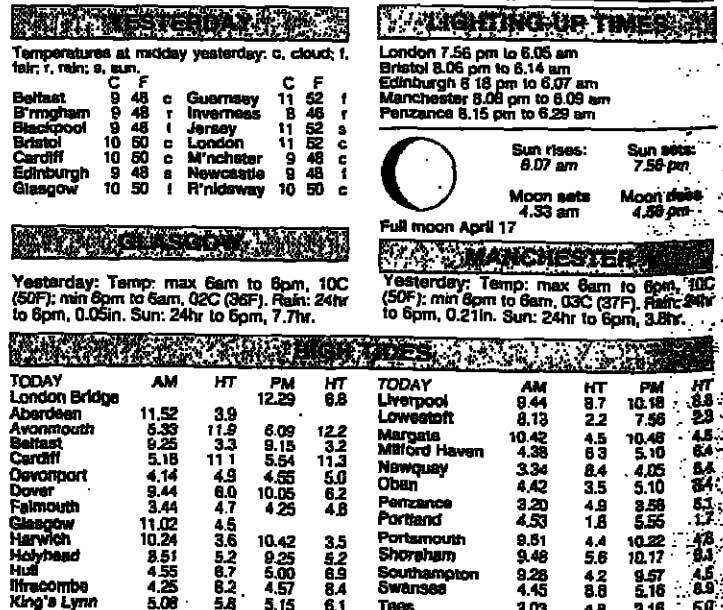
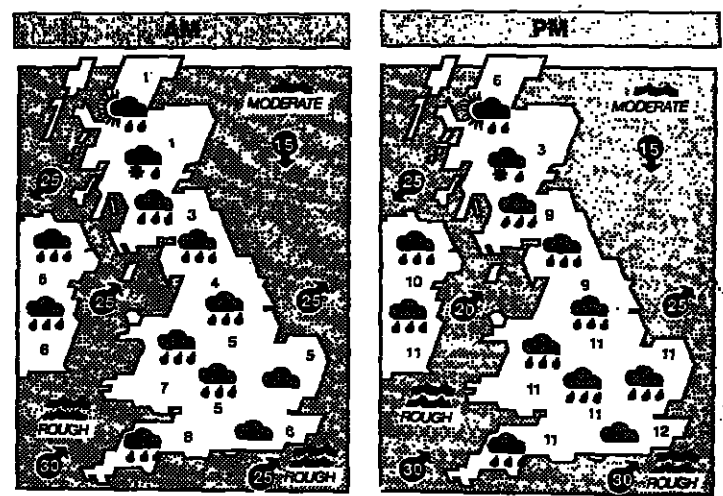
Monday: Highest day temp. Sheeburn Ness; Sunday: 16C (61F). Lowest day temp: Orkney, inner Hebrides, 07C (45F). Highest rainfall: 10.4mm, Llanelli, Swansea; 10.2mm, Llanelli, Swansea, Penzance, Cornwall; 3.4in, ...

| | Sun hrs | Rain in | C % | M % | F % |
|----------------|------------|------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Abideen | 4.7 | 0.03 | 9 | 48 | show |
| Alachua | 6.2 | 0.07 | 9 | 46 | show |
| Aventura | 6.2 | 0.07 | 9 | 46 | show |
| Bahia | 2.5 | 0.24 | 10 | 50 | show |
| Bellair | 4.1 | 0.11 | 9 | 48 | show |
| Bonita | 7.0 | - | 13 | 50 | bright |
| Bonita Regia | 7.0 | - | 13 | 50 | bright |
| Bournebourne | 4.4 | - | 12 | 54 | bright |
| Buckhead | 3.3 | 0.02 | 8 | 46 | bright |
| Buxton | 3.7 | 0.86 | 8 | 46 | show |
| Canfield | 4.7 | 0.01 | 11 | 52 | show |
| Canfield Hills | 4.7 | 0.01 | 11 | 52 | show |
| Cherry Hill | 5.5 | 0.13 | 11 | 55 | show |
| Cohwyn Bay | 5.5 | 0.13 | 11 | 55 | show |
| Coral Gables | 4.1 | 0.11 | 9 | 48 | show |
| Douglas | 3.4 | 0.26 | 10 | 50 | show |
| Edinburgh | 6.4 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 50 | bright |
| Edgewater | 4.1 | 0.13 | 9 | 48 | show |
| Falmouth | 5.4 | 0.04 | 12 | 54 | bright |
| Farmington | 6.0 | 0.04 | 12 | 54 | bright |
| Forest Hills | 4.1 | 0.13 | 9 | 48 | show |
| Gaumnay | 9.9 | - | 13 | 55 | sunny |
| Haying Island | 8.9 | - | 13 | 55 | sunny |
| Hickory Hill | 4.1 | 0.13 | 9 | 48 | show |
| Jersey | 7.8 | 0.04 | 12 | 54 | bright |
| Kississ | 3.1 | 0.02 | 9 | 46 | show |
| La Jolla | 4.1 | 0.13 | 9 | 48 | show |
| Lanwick | 2.6 | 0.11 | 8 | 43 | show |
| Leopold | 4.1 | 0.21 | 10 | 50 | show |
| Lido | 4.7 | 0.27 | 12 | 56 | show |
| Llewellyst | 5.4 | 0.06 | 12 | 54 | bright |
| Longwood | 3.3 | 0.27 | 12 | 56 | show |
| Margate | 3.3 | 0.27 | 12 | 56 | show |
| Minnehad | 6.2 | 0.01 | 12 | 54 | sunny |
| Mitcheville | 6.2 | 0.01 | 12 | 54 | sunny |
| Newcastle | 8.0 | 0.03 | 11 | 52 | show |
| Newcary | 4.5 | 0.06 | 11 | 52 | bright |
| Northwood | 4.5 | 0.06 | 11 | 52 | bright |
| Panacea | 7.9 | 0.05 | 13 | 55 | bright |
| Plymouth | 4.5 | 0.06 | 11 | 52 | sunny |
| Port Bona | 2.2 | 0.09 | 10 | 50 | show |
| Salcombe | 6.2 | 0.04 | 13 | 55 | sunny |
| Sandown | 3.0 | - | 13 | 55 | sunny |
| Seaboard | 4.7 | 0.02 | 11 | 52 | bright |
| Seaboard Park | X | 0.06 | 11 | 52 | sunny |
| Seaside Isles | 4.7 | 0.02 | 11 | 52 | bright |
| Southern | 6.5 | - | 13 | 55 | bright |

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Greater London | 701 |
| Greater London Council, Surrey Street | 702 |
| Dorset, Hants & IOW | 703 |
| Devon & Cornwall | 704 |
| Wills, Glouce, Avon, Soms | 705 |
| Barks, Bucks, Oxon | 706 |
| Wicks, Herts & Oxon | 707 |
| Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs | 708 |
| West Mid, 2nd Glam & Gwent | 709 |
| Shrops, Herefords & Worcs | 710 |
| Central Midlands | 711 |
| East Midlands | 712 |
| Lincs & Humberside | 713 |
| Dyfed & Powys | 714 |
| Gwynedd & Gwyn. | 715 |
| W. England | 716 |
| W & S Yorks & Dale | 717 |
| N. England | 718 |
| Cumbria & Lake District | 719 |
| Scotland | 720 |
| E Central Scotland | 721 |
| Edin S City/Lothian & Borders | 722 |
| E Central Scotland | 723 |
| Glasgow & E Highlands | 724 |
| W Highlands & Shetlands | 725 |
| Caitness, Orkney & Shetland | 726 |
| N Ireland | 727 |
| Weather hire is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute (normal rate) | |



THE TIMES BUSINESS

TUESDAY APRIL 14 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

Polaris Sub
returns
to base for
last time

- BUSINESS NEWS 17-23
- LAW TIMES 25,27
- LAW REPORT 28
- SPORT 29-32

TODAY IN BUSINESS

CALL ON CLOWES



Peter Clowes and his wife, Pamela, have been ordered to pay £6 million in damages to the trade department as part of efforts to recover up to £150 million
Page 19

BREWERS TAPPED

Britain's brewers have come under attack over the use of long-term supply contracts to circumvent regulation of the beer industry
Page 19

POWER TO US



Lord Hanson is selling Ever Ready, the dry cell battery business, to an American corporation for £132 million
Page 19

SPRING ROLLS

Rolls-Royce has won a £300 million order to supply jet engines for Cathay Pacific
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LAW TIMES



Sir Frederick Lawton looks at issues raised by the recent Jason Donovan case
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THE POUND

US dollar 1.7627 (-0.0098)
German mark 2.9102 (+0.0299)
Exchange index 91.7 (+0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2005.5 (+4.4)
FT-SE 100 2591.0 (+18.4)
New York Dow Jones 3259.62 (+4.25)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 17236.65 (-614.01)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10%
3-month interbank 10%
3-month eligible bills 9 1/2%
US: Prime Rate 6 1/2%
Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 3 63/32%
30-year bonds 10 1/4%
New York: CME 340 55-341.05

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$342.00 pm \$340.80
close \$340.40-340.90 (€192.90-193.40)
New York: COMEX \$340.55-341.05

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) \$19.15 bid (\$19.10)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 136.7 March (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Japan may miss capital adequacy deadline

Nikkei's slide poses threat to Tokyo banks

By NEIL BENNETT IN LONDON AND JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

THE Tokyo stock market plunged another 614 points in Monday trading as a new report from IBCA, the debt rating agency, showed that the collapse in share prices has left many of the country's leading banks dangerously short of capital.

The Nikkei index lost about half of the gains it made on Friday to close at 17,236.65, a drop of 16 per cent in the past month. Analysts said yesterday's fall showed that Friday's rally had been artificial since it was not triggered by

improvements in the factors depressing the market. The fall in the stock market is depleting the value of the bank's massive share portfolios, and cutting into their capital adequacy. This is making it increasingly uncertain whether Japan's banks will be able to meet international capital adequacy standards by the deadline of March next year.

IBCA's report shows that at the end of last month, Sakura and Nippon Credit Bank had failed to meet the 8 per cent capital requirement set by the Bank for International Settlements.

Sakura has since issued preference stock to improve its capital. The continuing fall in the Nikkei this month has pushed many of the other city, or commercial, banks under the limit.

In Tokyo, analysts believe the banks will face serious problems if the Nikkei index falls below 16,000. At that point, most banks will fall below the 8 per cent limit, even if they raise the maximum amount of subordinated debt allowed under BIS rules to bolster capital ratios.

David Marshall, IBCA's analyst in Tokyo, said that unless the Nikkei index recovers, the only solution would be to relax the BIS's capital standards. But the Bank of England and other central banks are thought to be strongly opposed to any attempt by the Japanese Ministry of Finance to relax capital adequacy standards, since that would undermine the credibility of the agreement.

Concerns about capital adequacy have hit bank shares hard in the recent stock market falls. Investors are also worried about the growing level of bad debts in the banking system. These have mainly been caused by the 30 per cent slump in Tokyo land prices in the past 18 months.

Several other factors are causing the sell-off in the stock market. Firstly, investors have been disappointed by the government's emergency measures introduced at the beginning of the month. These were intended to stimulate the faltering economy but are widely considered to be inadequate. They included a 0.75 percentage point cut in the official discount rate to 3.75 per cent.

Paul Heaton, senior analyst at Smith New Court in Tokyo, said: "The government hasn't introduced anything substantial to encourage the markets. It should open up liquidity or put new money into the market and the whole economy. But it seems to be doing nothing."

Data on portfolio allocations has also depressed sentiment. There have been indications that corporate cross-shareholdings, about 70 per cent of the market, are being broken down, while life insurance companies, which are suffering slower growth of premium income, could cut dramatically their allocation of new funds to the stock market.

As the stock market continues to fall, Japan's trade surplus was a record for March, taking the total surplus for fiscal 1991 to its second highest level ever, according to official figures. The monthly surplus rose 29.3 per cent in March compared to a year earlier, reaching a record US\$10,985 million. The surplus for fiscal 1991 rose 62.7 per cent from the previous year to US\$88,736 million.

Letters, page 21
Threat to banks, page 21

Pound climbs off bottom of ERM

By COLIN NARBROUGH AND MICHAEL CLARK

THE pound rose to its highest against the mark for more than five months and came off the bottom of the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) where it has languished since November.

International demand for sterling, prompted by the Conservative election win, continued to propel the pound forward. Reports that the Russian government has stormed out of parliament in Moscow, and a downgrading of German growth prospects by the leading think tanks, speeded the mark's retreat.

At the official London close at 4pm, the pound stood at DM2.9102, almost three pence higher than last week's close. Compared with its eve-of-election position, it was up almost 7 pence. It finished a cent lower against the dollar at \$1.7627, but was 0.5 up on its trade-weighted index at 91.7, its best showing since December 27.

In the ERM, the pound overtook the Danish krone to reach 22 per cent of its permitted divergence from its central rate in the parity grid. This compared with 37 per cent on Friday. International investors short of sterling were the main buyers, with

Japanese investment trusts particularly active.

Although sterling's regained strength last week encouraged hopes of an early base rate cut, money market pressure for a cut eased. The key three-month interbank lending rate closed 1/4 lower at 10 1/4 per cent. One month money was quoted at 10 1/2 per cent, the base rate since September. Signals from the authorities indicating no early easing contributed to sterling's gains.

In America, Chemical Banking Corporation cut its prime lending rate by 1/4 point to 6.25 per cent, the lowest since December 1976. The move followed the Federal Reserve Board's cut in short-term interest rates last week. The Fed move was intended to ensure America's fragile recovery strengthens.

On the stock market, investors continued to celebrate the Conservative election win. But both equities and government securities closed below their best with the FT-SE 100 index seeing an early lead of almost 34 points virtually halved to end the session 18.4 up at 2,591.0.

German growth, page 18

O&Y job for Greenwald

By OUR CITY STAFF

REPRESENTATIVES from about 100 banks met in Toronto yesterday to hear how Olympia & York, the big Canadian property company, proposes to restructure its huge debts, now understood to be US\$15 billion.

As the meeting began, O&Y confirmed that Gerald Greenwald, a former vice chairman of Chrysler, was to become president and deputy chief executive of Olympia & York Developments, O&Y's main operating company. Mr Greenwald was appointed just hours after it was

finally confirmed that Thomas Johnson, former president of Manufacturers Hanover, would not be taking the job.

Mr Greenwald worked with Steve Miller, the investment banker masterminding the O&Y refinancing, on the similar and successful restructuring of Chrysler in the Eighties. After Mr Greenwald's appointment, Paul Reichmann, one of the three brothers who own O&Y, said: "His proven financial and management skills will be of great help as O&Y continues its own restructuring."

Men of power sign a deal in green

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

CONTRACTS to finance two gas fired power stations at a cost of £775 million were signed yesterday, as companies rushed to beat a deadline set by British Gas to sell fuel at pre-increase prices.

The American developers of one plant, at the Isle of Grain in Kent, pledged to plant a forest in the tropics big enough to consume an amount of carbon dioxide equal to that emitted by the plant. "We just feel like it is a responsible thing to do, what with the concern around the world about global warming and the greenhouse effect," said Daniel Ayre, the project director of AES Medway.

Mr Ayre said the tree-planting project would take some years to come to fruition. A tropical country would be selected because the rate at which trees grow,



Young growth strategy and therefore absorb carbon, would be higher there. Applied Energy Services, the American parent company of AES Medway, has already begun tree-planting schemes in relation to plants built in America. The power station projects approved yesterday are part

of a rapid build up of gas fired power station projects unleashed by privatisation of the electricity industry.

Because the generators were sold, in effect, as a duopoly, would-be rivals have been forced to commission new plants to enter the market. Almost all have chosen gas, arguing that burning natural gas produces cheaper power at higher levels of thermal efficiency with fewer harmful emissions.

The AES project is for a 660 megawatt combined cycle gas fired power station on the Isle of Grain. The plant will be owned by Medway Power, a joint venture between AES Electric and two regional electricity supply companies, Seeboard and Southern Electric. The regional companies have contracted to buy the entire output for 15 years. The construction cost of £370 million has been under-



Dividend defender: Sir Philip Beck, the chairman, said Mowlem had an obligation to shareholders

Brady attacks EBRD plan to reshape Russian industry

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BUDAPEST

NICHOLAS Brady, the American treasury secretary, yesterday attacked an ambitious scheme by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to help Russia reconstruct its heavy industries and convert its armaments business into civilian enterprises.

"The EBRD cannot cover the entire range of needs; it cannot be all things to all people; it cannot hope to cover all factors, both private and public, in all countries. In this regard we are not convinced of the need to branch into new restructuring operations involving major policy changes that detract from the bank's main mission," Mr Brady told the first annual meeting of the bank's governors.

He urged the EBRD: "Sell, don't recapitalise state owned enterprises. Recapitalising money-losing operations won't get the job done."

Mr Brady's warnings amount to one of the strongest criticisms yet made by any of the European Bank's shareholders, and have cast a shadow over the first day of the two day conference, as they highlight the division between the bank and some of its shareholders over future strategy.

His comments amount to an open rebuttal of a proposal made earlier by Jacques Attali, president of EBRD, who called for a "special restructuring programme."

This programme would be additional to existing financial assistance and would involve soft loans at below market interest rates to help with modernisation and the capacity reduction of Russia's heavy industries.

Mr Attali's emphasis could not have been more different. In a rousing and uncompromising speech he told delegates that "entire sectors need to be restructured before any thought can be given to privatising them."

The ideological divisions

Mr Brady and M Attali reflect an intensive debate within eastern Europe over whether to restructure first and then to privatise, or whether to use privatisation as a means to restructuring. In M Attali's view the modernisation of Russia's heavy industry and especially the need to convert military industries — otherwise known as the tanks-into-tractors conversion — represents a prime candidate for a restructuring-first approach.

Experiences in some countries, especially in eastern Germany, have shown that these industries are among the most difficult to sell without special incentives, so that a privatisation-first approach has frequently proved impossible. M Attali singled out Russia's defence industry, which employs more than 12 million people. He said that "they are totally unfitted to competitive conditions and

are in a potential situation of surplus capacity of the kind witnessed in western Europe in the past decade. They need to be reduced to a size compatible with region requirements. For this purpose we should like, with you, to set up a special restructuring programme, which will finance such projects from a new kind of resources."

Other delegates have also expressed doubt about the widening of the European Bank's responsibilities. Britain is understood to be sceptical, while Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, told fellow governors that "financial and technical assistance by the West is necessary, but the key to success lies in the recipient countries themselves."

He said that Germany has supported the reform process more than any other country.

Comment, page 21

Mowlem slumps to £3m

By MATTHEW BOND

JOHN Mowlem, the contracting group, has reported a slump in pre-tax profits from £34 million in 1990 to £3 million in 1991. As a result, the final dividend has been cut from 15.35p to just 4.85p, making 10.5p (21p).

Sir Philip Beck, chairman, defended the decision to pay a dividend, which required a £11.1 million transfer from reserves. "We believe we have an obligation to shareholders to look through the recession to the medium term."

The pre-tax profit was struck after £7.2 million of exceptional provisions, £3 million of which related to unwinding two joint ventures.

Sir Philip also announced that Mowlem was withdrawing from commercial property development, with a £14 million extraordinary provision and resulting in an attributable loss of £15.5 million (£15.4 million profit).

Tempus, page 20

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Rolls-Royce signs £300m engine deal with Cathay

By ROSS TIEMAN AND LULU YU

LORD Tombs, chairman of Rolls-Royce, has finally dispelled fears that the company might come a poor third in the race to power the only new Boeing aircraft this decade. The British aero-engine manufacturer has clinched a £300 million contract to provide engines for Boeing 777s ordered by Cathay Pacific Airways.

Cathay, one of the most profitable airlines in the world, is the third carrier to order Rolls Trent 800 engines for the 777 wide-bodied twin-jet, after Thai and Emirates. The latest contract gives Rolls a 28 per cent share of the market for 777 engines, behind Pratt & Whitney, but ahead of General Electric.

All three are now compet-

ing hard to win further orders from American Airlines and Japan Airlines, which have decided to buy the aircraft, a 319-seat medium-range jet. The Boeing 777 order from Cathay, based in Hong Kong, is the biggest for Rolls-Royce powered aircraft. The engines will be assembled in Derby.

Cathay, controlled by John Swire & Sons in London, plans to acquire 22 jets from the Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, of Seattle, for \$3.4 billion. The amount includes around \$500 million for engines ordered from Rolls-Royce.

David Gledhill, Cathay's chairman, said 11 Boeing 777 aircraft would be delivered in 1996 and 1998, at a cost of \$1.7 billion. Options on a further 11 could be exercised from 1997 to 2000, at the same price.

This will be a huge investment, not only in the future of Cathay Pacific but also in the future of Hong Kong — illustrating our continued confidence and commitment," he said.

Cathay has been using Rolls engines since the mid-Seventies. "After detailed analysis of alternative engines, the Rolls-Royce Trent 800 series was selected as having the best blend of proven and new technology," Mr Gledhill said.

Sir Ralph Robbins, chief executive of Rolls-Royce, said he was "delighted" to be retaining his role as supplier to one of the world's most profitable airlines. The new planes will gradually replace the airline's current fleet of 747-200s and 747-300s.

Providing 80,000 lbs of thrust, the Trent 800, derived from the RB211 engine, will be the most powerful built by Rolls-Royce. A smaller version, the Trent 700, is being developed to power the Airbus A330, the Boeing 777's European rival.

Fugitive S&L chief gives himself up

FROM REUTERS

THE former president of a savings institution whose alleged embezzlement of \$13.5 million led to one of the most troubled periods for banking in America surrendered himself to police on Sunday after 17 months as a fugitive.

Joseph Mollicone, 48, surrendered at the home of Thomas DiIulio, the former Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor whose nephew is married to Mr Mollicone's daughter.

Mr Mollicone, who had been the subject of an international search, was placed in jail under heavy guard pending an arraignment hearing due to take place yesterday, according to Robert Craven, the prosecuting state assistant attorney general. Mr Craven expected a grand jury to hand out indictments by the weekend.

Mr Mollicone disappeared on November 8, 1990, after auditors questioned him about \$13.5 million that appeared to be missing from the coffers of his Heritage Loan and Investment savings institution. Heritage was later taken over by the state of Rhode Island.

Investigators have alleged that fraudulent loans were assigned to people and businesses that had neither applied for loans nor received funds. The Heritage takeover put a severe strain on a \$25 million private insurance fund, the Rhode Island Share and Deposit Indemnity Corp, which backed the deposits of many of the state's credit unions and savings and loan institutions.

Six weeks after the Heritage takeover, Bruce Sundlun, Rhode Island's governor, closed 45 banks and credit unions that had been backed by RISDIC, freezing \$1.7 billion worth of deposits in 300,000 accounts. Nine of the institutions remain closed.

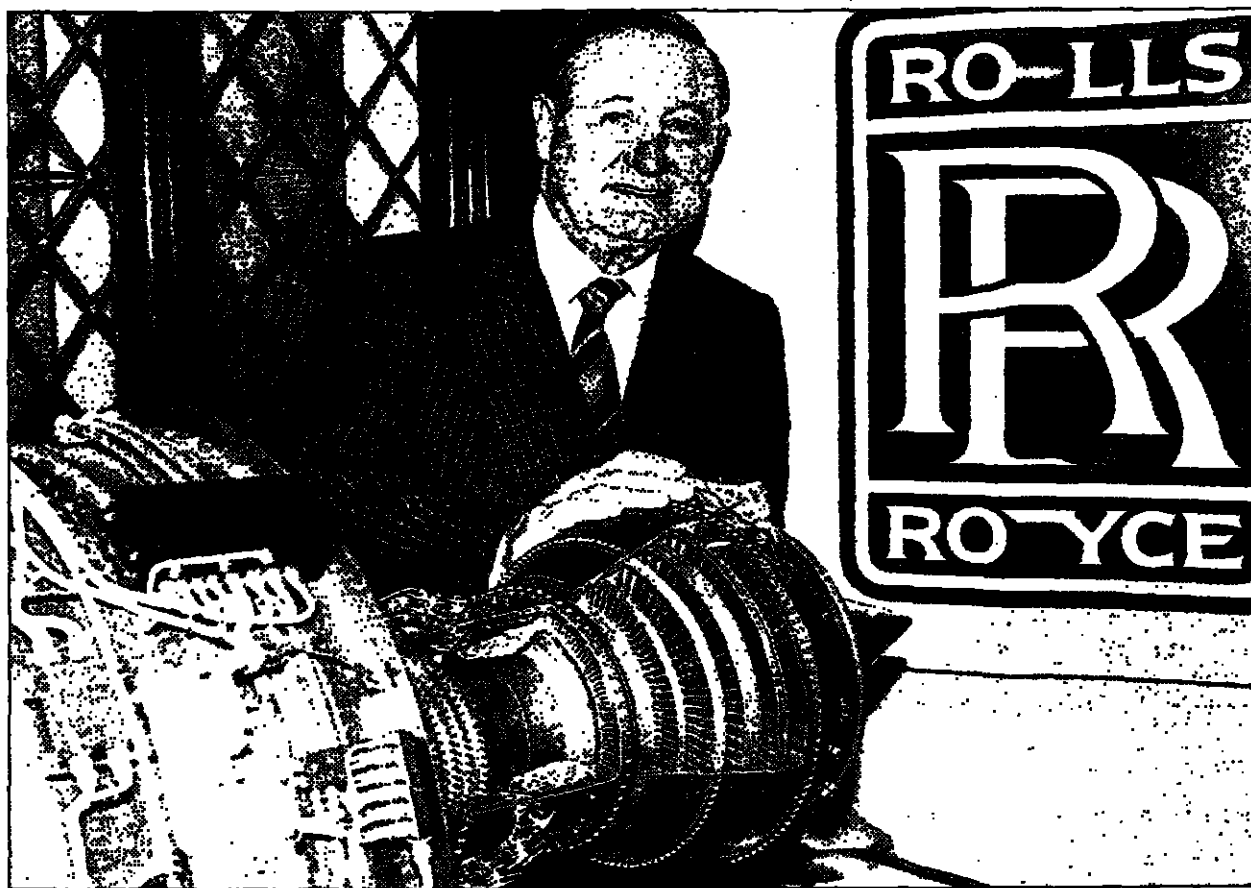
Midland bid terms 'out soon'

THE Hongkong and Shanghai Bank is poised to announce its offer terms for the Midland Bank. An announcement is expected within the next two weeks, barring any last-minute hitches (Neil Bennett writes).

A Midland spokesman said no formal date has been set for the announcement, but HSBC Holdings, the holding company of Hongkong Bank and Schroders, its adviser, are working flat out on the offer document and will complete it before the end of the month.

Hongkong Bank is expected to offer at least 400p a share, in a mixture of shares and loan notes, with a partial cash alternative. The bank is intent on ensuring the terms are sufficiently attractive to deter any counterbid.

Meanwhile, Lloyds Bank, whose approaches were rejected by Midland's board, is awaiting details of HSBC's bid. Lloyds refuses to make any public comment about Midland. Privately, however, its advisers have said it is still ready to make an offer if the opportunity arises, although it has ruled out a hostile bid.



Thrusting ahead: Lord Tombs celebrates a £300 million order from Cathay Pacific for Rolls-Royce engines

Domestic slowdown pushes Japanese surplus to record

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ECONOMIC slowdown at home boosted Japan's trade surplus to a record \$10.9 billion in March to make the surplus for 1991-92 the second highest, finance ministry figures showed.

Importantly, the overall climb in the customs-cleared surplus last month was not reflected in Japan's politically sensitive bilateral trade with America. For the first time in eight months, the surplus with America recorded a year-on-year decline, mainly because of substantial purchases of American aircraft by the Japanese.

This development follows Washington's accord with Tokyo to reduce the bilateral imbalance. Japan's surplus with America was \$3.16 billion last month, a fall of 17 per cent from March 1991.

The overall trade surplus last month was up 29 per cent on the same month last year. This meant that Japan has had 15 months in a row of

year-on-year increases in its trade surplus. For the fiscal year to the end of March, the surplus was \$88.3 billion, up 63 per cent. Exports were the highest ever at \$320.6 billion.

The slowing Japanese economy and sluggish domestic demand has forced companies to turn increasingly to export markets. A rundown of stocks is also being directed largely into exports. The Japanese consumer has enhanced the nation's trade balance too by reining back on imported luxuries.

The Japanese finance ministry made clear that it does not expect the surplus to rise rapidly in the months ahead, as the government is taking measures to promote import growth, while Japanese firms have moved production out of Japan. March imports were 8.2 per cent down on the previous March, showing a steady decline since autumn.

An important factor was the lower price of oil. Exports

were 2.6 per cent up on March last year, having shown year-on-year increases for 22 consecutive months. For fiscal 1991-92, imports were down 4.2 per cent, while exports were 8.1 per cent higher than the previous year, at \$320.58 billion.

Despite the official assurances that the trade surplus will not continue to grow as vigorously as in the past, economists believe the slowdown in Japan will push up the trade surplus for the rest of the year.

While American threats appear to have produced the effect Washington desired on bilateral trade, surpluses with other regions have not been addressed. Japan's surplus with the European Community narrowed to \$2.98 billion last month, down 8.5 per cent on March last year, but grew by 33.7 per cent in fiscal 1991-92 to \$28.44 billion.

Banks under threat, page 21

Germany has strong quarter of growth

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A MILD winter and heavy stockpiling enabled West Germany to grow strongly in the first quarter, but it is too early to speak of an economic turnaround, its five leading economic institutes say.

Despite a seasonally-adjusted rise of 1 per cent in the gross national product in real terms in the opening three months, the think tanks have sharply downgraded their growth forecast for the whole year. In their joint spring report they call on the Bundesbank to cut leading interest rates in the second half of 1992 as soon as market rates start to fall.

Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank vice-president, ruled out any near-term change in key German lending rates. Speaking in Paris after chairing a meeting of deputy finance ministers and central bankers from the leading economies, he said participants agreed that controlling public spending, rather than cutting interest rates, was the best way to speed sustainable recovery.

Although the German institutes are concerned about stagnation in Germany, they do not foresee recession. But their recommendations suggest they believe the Bundesbank might keep the monetary reins too tight. They urge the Bundesbank to aim for growth in its M3 money measure at the upper end of its 3.5 to 5.5 per cent target range. In February, it grew 8.5 per cent.

For all of 1992, the report has halved its growth forecast from last autumn to 1 per cent. In 1991, west Germany expanded 3.1 per cent. Record high interest rates, imposed to kill off inflationary pressures, have reduced investment and demand for labour. The Bundesbank insists the slowdown comes against a background of exceptional growth arising from the unique shock of unification.

Professor Hans-Jürgen Schmalz, presenting the institutes' report in Bonn yesterday, supported the view that the west German economy was still basically sound. Although he was not prepared to entirely rule out a slump or recession, he said the institutes did not consider such a development probable.

Frost Group stays on outlet target

By OUR CITY STAFF

FROST Group, operator of the Save petrol stations chain, is paying a 2p dividend, after turning in pre-tax profits last year of £2.5 million, against £4.7 million previously.

In its prospectus, Frost predicted that the 1991 profits would be disappointing by comparison with its record, but that basic steps had been taken to help the group "re-establish its previous track record".

The company also said it would pursue a "progressive" dividend policy in 1992 and beyond. The current payment is comfortably covered by earnings of 13.4p a share.

Floated on the stock market by the Norfolk House Group receiver last October, the self-styled largest independent petrol filling station operator in the UK has acquired 23 new sites in the ensuing months, passing chairman James Frost's first milestone of more than 100 sites. The target over the next five years is 250 outlets.

Mr Frost expects to make further acquisitions in 1992.



Frost: acquisitive

"The recession has provided a special opportunity to acquire sites at considerably lower prices than two years ago," he said.

So far in the current year trading is in line with expectations. Credit Lyonnais, Frost's broker, is predicting profits of £5.7 million for the year, creating earnings of 23.5p a share. A 12p dividend is forecast.

Frost Group shares were changing hands at 380p yesterday, compared with their issue price of 235p.

Poll result prompts £150m BAA issue

By JONATHAN PRYNN

BAA, the airport management group, has taken advantage of strong post-election demand for sterling to raise £150 million through an issue of long-dated eurobonds.

The issue was the second from UK companies to hit the market after the election, following Cable and Wireless's £50 million issue on Friday. The Conservative victory unleashed a wave of foreign demand for sterling assets, which pushed gilt yields down to historically attractive levels.

Faanya Goldin, BAA's treasurer, said the decision to go ahead with the bond had been taken on Friday afternoon after the election result "rekindled the interest of overseas borrowers" in the UK market.

The bonds, which will be listed in London, mature in 2016 and yield 10.509 per cent at the fixed re-offer price of £110.728. The funds raised will be used for "general corporate purposes," the company said. The long life of

the bonds reflected strong demand from investors at the long end of the yield curve and the company's preference for long-term funding to match the long-term nature of its assets. The bonds have a spread of 140 basis points over the benchmark gilt, compared with a 134 basis point spread on BAA's outstanding bonds.

The bonds were received well by the market, with a number of UK institutions featuring among the buyers. BZW was lead manager to the issue, and Kleinwort Benson, J Henry Schroder Wagg and Cazenove acted as co-lead managers.

Further corporate issues are expected, especially from sectors that have urgent liquidity requirements but are having problems raising bank debt.

However, the window of opportunity for corporate borrowers may be closed by the government's heavy gilt issuing programme, further details on which are being announced today.

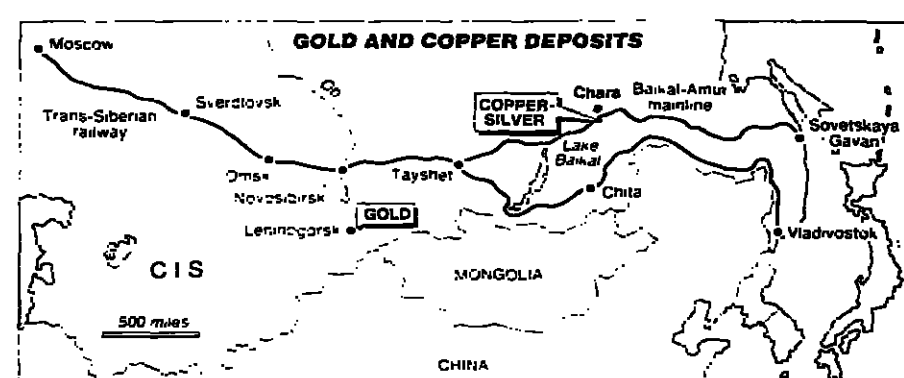
Goldbelt wins CIS mines development

GOLDBELT Resources, a Vancouver-based minerals exploration company which has an element of British shareholding on its share register, aims to develop two mining projects in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

One is a gold recovery project in Kazakhstan and known as the Leninogorsk gold tailings project. The other is a copper-silver project in Russia that has been under exploration development for several years and which is considered to be one of the largest deposits in the world.

Goldbelt's confirmation of its exploration plans follows the recent declarations by various CIS states that foreign mining interests would be welcome to help develop natural resources in the former USSR.

The company is negotiating with international lenders to help fund the project.



ected \$36.3 million capital cost of the gold project, where construction could begin this autumn and which could be in production by end-1993, or early 1994. The project involves treating 136 million tonnes of mine tailings for precious metals, estimated to contain 2.7 million ounces of gold and 20.7 million ounces of silver. Goldbelt will have an

indirect 50 per cent stake in the project which could produce 924,000 ounces of gold and 5.74 million ounces of silver during the first ten years of operation. Projected life of the mine is at least 25 years.

Feasibility studies suggest a pay-back period of less than one year. An agreement with Kazakhstan authorities provides for the formation of

a local company called Kazgold to undertake the project. Kazgold will be granted a tax free period and, because it will be in an economic free zone, should be exempt from customs duties on imports.

Goldbelt hopes to secure agreements with the Russian authorities to exploit undeveloped copper-silver deposits in Siberia. 300

miles east of Lake Baikal in Chita province, which contain 900 million tonnes, grading 1.6 per cent copper and 13.3 grams of silver per tonne.

Goldbelt says while it understands that all the powers and rights formerly vested in the Soviet Union have devolved to the individual republics, "the region must be considered subject to rapid changes".

Mike Muzylowski, chairman of Goldbelt, says that this is an opportunity to participate in a moment of history.

"We will assist in providing capital, modern technology and expertise, while our CIS associates will provide the resources and infrastructure," he adds. Goldbelt is committed to take early stage by funding \$5 million of costs. Goldbelt also holds mineral lands in Canada and America.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Babcock agrees bill in German bankrupt case

BABCOCK International Group, the process plant group, faces a bill for £14.3 million after agreeing terms for the settling of ten-year old legal proceedings in Germany. Under the settlement terms, Babcock International Holdings Ltd (BIHL) will pay Dm 40 million in cash to IBH Holding, a German company in bankruptcy, and provide for certain costs. Babcock's group balance sheet includes a provision of £19.2 million in respect of the liability.

Following the settlement, BIHL can file a claim of Dm 40 million in the bankruptcy of IBH. Indications from the IBH receiver are that it could produce a dividend of 15 per cent of the claim. The proceedings arose in connection with a subscription for share capital made by BIHL in IBH 1982, the year before IBH's insolvency.

Dinkie Heel slips

DINKIE Heel, the tocap and shoe-repair products maker, reported that pre-tax profits for the year to end-December fell 12 per cent to £259,000. The profits were after an exceptional charge of £51,000 relating to a disposal and interest of £107,000. Earnings per share increased from 1.6p to 1.82p because of lower tax. A final dividend of 0.6p makes an unchanged total of 0.95p. Margins were improved through an 11 per cent reduction in the workforce. Trading in the first quarter is "up to expectations".

Allied London ahead

ALLIED London Properties has bounced back into the black with pre-tax profits of £2.6 million for the six months to end-December, compared with a £5.4 million loss last time. Most of the damage last time was caused by an £8 million writedown against the value of the residential landbank and work in progress. The latest figures contain no provisions, but the problems in the residential market have clearly continued. The interim dividend is unchanged at 1.075p.

Single market accord

THE European Community and the European Free Trade Association (Efta) are to initial tomorrow their accord setting-up the world's biggest single market. The initialing — the step before a final signature and ratification by the EC and Efta national parliaments and the European Parliament — was made possible when the EC's highest court this weekend removed the final obstacles to the plan. The EC and Efta together account for two-thirds of world trade.

Hemingway cuts loss

HEMINGWAY Properties, formerly Marylebone Estates, reported a £2.6 million loss, for last year, a significant improvement on the £6.9 million lost in 1990. Once again, there is no dividend. Leonard Phillips, chairman, described 1991 as a year of transition and said that the figures did not provide an accurate indication of the group's future performance. But the figures compared well with the £2.1 million half-time loss, demonstrating that many of the steps needed to reduce the revenue deficit have been taken.

Roskel attacks delays

ROSKEI, the suspended ceiling installer, has condemned many developers and contractors for delaying payment to subcontractors to preserve cash flow. Simon Skelding, the chairman, said that the delays had resulted in many subcontractors going out of business. While in Roskel's case few of the contracts in question were in serious dispute, the delays were affecting cash flow and margins. Pre-tax profits for last year fell from £2.2 million to £1.6 million. A final dividend of 3p makes an unchanged 4.3p.

CE Heath float details

CE HEATH, the insurance broker, has announced the finalised terms of the May flotation of CE Heath International Holdings (HIH), its Australian subsidiary. It will raise Aus\$108 million (£47 million) from the sale of 22 million shares priced at Aus\$1.50. A number of directors of CE Heath and HIH will provide sub-underwriting. If CE Heath has to take up all of its sub-underwriting commitments it will end up with 46.5 per cent stake.

Govett reveals plans on dual share listing

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

GOVETT, the Anglo-American fund manager, is planning a dual listing in London and New York in an effort to lift its share price.

The group, which changed its name from Berkeley Govett last month, has been shunned by British investors, despite a strong profit record. Now it is launching an American depositary receipt (ADR) on Nasdaq, the American electronic stockmarket and will follow this with a dual listing. The ADR is being sponsored by the Bank of New York.

Arthur Trueger, Govett's chairman, revealed his plans during a rare visit to London last week. He also said that the group is considering restating profits at London Pacific, its American annuities subsidiary. Govett's shares closed at 118p last week, putting them on a p/e ratio of less than four against last year's pre-tax profits of \$53.8 million, up 16 per cent on 1990.

"The company needs to get its quote back to the US," said Mr Trueger. Govett is one of the handful of American companies which took a British listing in the late Eighties when it was fashionable, despite accounting in dollars and being registered in Jersey.

Mr Trueger also said he is close to completing the acquisition of a trust company in America to complement Govett's other fund management businesses and is looking at another fund management group on the West Coast to complement ACI, which it bought last year. Govett also wants to buy a British fund manager to expand. John Govett, its specialist investment manager in London, Mr Trueger said that Govett may abandon the use of accrued

profits accounting at London Pacific and move to a cash accounting basis. This would cut profits from \$24 million last year to between \$2 million and \$5 million, but could improve the group's image. "London Pacific is a home run, however we count the profits," said Mr Trueger.

Bond trial to start in May

ALAN Bond, whose business empire failed, will stand trial in Perth next month on a charge related to the collapse of Rothwells, the Western Australian merchant bank. It is alleged that Mr Bond, 53, urged Brian Coppin, a Perth businessman, to commit money to the 1987 Rothwells rescue while concealing from Mr Coppin that Mr Bond was to receive an Aus\$16 million (£7 million) fee for his efforts.

At a brief appearance in the district court yesterday, Mr Bond entered a plea of not guilty. His trial, expected to take a week, is scheduled to start on May 25.

Mr Bond, who was released on bail of Aus\$100,000, is best remembered as the head of the syndicate that won the America's Cup from the New York Yacht Club in 1983. The cup was regained by America in a series of races off Fremantle, Australia, three years later. Mr Bond's business empire, once estimated to be worth about Aus\$700 million began to crumble soon after and he is fighting to stave off bankruptcy. (AFP)

agrees bill in bankrupt case

Feel slips

London ahead

market accord

gateway cuts loss

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Bonding
to start
in May

Clowes ordered to make an interim payment of £6m

By JON ASHWORTH

PETER Clowes, the jailed financier, and his wife, Pamela, have been ordered to make an immediate interim payment of £6 million in damages to the trade department which took over the claims of thousands of small investors who lost out in the collapse of the Barlow Clowes investment empire.

The High Court order by Sir Donald Nicholls, the Vice-Chancellor, follows the judge's ruling last month that the couple have "no defence" to the damages claim launched by the DTI to recoup what it can.

The exact amount of damages due has yet to be assessed by the court, but the judge said it was "inevitable" that the figure would exceed £10 million and probably £15

million with interest to be added. Clowes and his wife had argued that they should not be ordered to make an interim payment because they did not have the means to pay. Clowes' assets are fully charged to meet claims pending against him by the Barlow Clowes liquidators.

But the judge said this case was "far removed from the run-of-the-mill", and there was nothing unjust in ordering an interim payment, even if the amount was beyond the couple's means and it had the "extreme consequence" of bringing bankruptcy on them. Interest is to run on the interim payment, but the judge granted a stay of his order pending an appeal by Clowes and his wife.

Clowes, serving a 10-year

prison sentence for fraud, was in court for the brief hearing. Both he and his wife, who was not present, have been granted legal aid. The DTI is pressing for the return of £19.8 million missing from Barlow Clowes and Partners. The shortfall was found after the compulsory winding-up in July 1988 of Barlow Clowes Gilt Managers.

The amount claimed includes interest and sums allegedly deducted by Clowes for tax purposes. Pamela Clowes, 48, although having had no personal involvement in the partnership business, is jointly liable with her husband. The DTI claim is one of many against Clowes, 49, who cheated investors of an estimated £113 million by falsely promising to invest in government gilt-edged securities and spending the money on a yacht, executive jet, expensive cars and various business enterprises.

After taking the unprecedented step of granting £150 million in compensation to the 18,500 investors in Barlow Clowes in December 1989, the government, which accepted no liability for the collapse, has been intent on recovering as much of the money as it can.

Touche Ross, the accountant and solicitors connected with James Ferguson Holdings, the parent company, are being sued for negligence by the DTI. Write have been issued against investment advisers who recommended Barlow Clowes to investors. All four major high street banks are being sued, together with Allied Dunbar and Legal & General, the life assurance groups. The government claims that the firms were negligent or in breach of their contracts. Investors assigned their rights to legal recovery to the DTI in return for accepting compensation.



Firm hand: Sir Gordon Borrie will move to prevent the brewers from evading OFT recommendations

Borrie fires shot at the brewers

By MARTIN WALLER

SIR Gordon Borrie, the retiring director general of fair trading, has fired a shot across the bows of the big brewers who attempt to evade the continuing break-up of the beer industry by the use of long-term supply agreements. Share prices in several big brewers fell sharply against the trend on the stock market.

Sir Gordon's office has already moved against one such agreement, a deal to lease pubs from Allied-Lyons to Brent Walker's Pubmaster operation, and others are thought to be in the pipeline in the run-up to November, when the so-called beer orders restructuring the industry come into effect.

Sir Gordon, who retires in June to make way for Sir Bryan Carsberg, said other block lease deals, described in

the drinks trade as "parking" pubs, would come under close scrutiny to see if they complied with the beer orders, which are intended to limit the number of pubs brewers can own as tied estates.

Furthermore, he would consider using powers available under both the Fair Trading Act and the Competition Act to move against supply deals "if I believe that the long-term supply agreement is used to frustrate the loosening of the tie which has been set in train".

Sir Gordon was speaking to the annual meeting of Camra, the Campaign for Real Ale, in Bristol over the weekend. Stockmarket analysts said he was repeating an earlier stance that brewers would not be allowed to evade the intentions of the Monopo-

lies and Mergers Commission, which initiated the shake-up of the industry.

But shares in Allied itself, which has gone ahead with the Pubmaster deal and hopes to reach agreement with the OFT by November over a possible compromise solution, fell 16p to 617p.

The A shares of Whitbread, which is putting together its own batch of leasing deals with various pub groups but with no supply agreement attached, fell 8p to 423p, although a company spokeswoman said Sir Gordon's strictures did not apply to the brewer.

Last month, an agreement that linked Allied with Carlsberg, the Danish brewer, was referred to the MMC by Peter Lilley, the former trade secretary, on the advice of Sir Gordon. But the OFT is keen

to distinguish a third deal, between Courage and Grand Metropolitan, which was approved by Mr Lilley subject to undertakings by the two companies.

That deal should not be seen as a precedent for seven-year supply agreements, Sir Gordon told Camra.

The outcome of that link was that the beer supply agreement would expire in 1995 and that 1,067 more pubs would be sold or freed from the tie than would have been the case if both companies had continued as brewers with their own tied estates.

Sir Gordon also said his office was now considering responses from the industry to enquiries over the rise in beer prices, a matter that is under investigation by the OFT.

Building jobs to fall by another 300,000

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE construction industry is heading for another 300,000 job losses by the end of the year, according to a state-of-trade enquiry by the Building Employers' Confederation, carried out before the results of the election were known.

The confederation, one of the industry's main employers' bodies, is pressing for meetings with ministers once the necessary appointments have been announced.

The enquiry found that output was continuing to fall, while the number of firms operating at less than half capacity rose to 25 per cent.

John Smith, the confederation's chairman, said: "There is still no sign of renewed growth in output so that 1992 will be another extremely tough year for construction firms and their employees."

He said the jobless figure looked likely to continue to rise for the rest of this year and into next. "We can now see that in 1991 as a whole the level of output was 9 per cent lower than the level recorded in the previous year. For 1992 I fear the consensus of industry forecasts indicating a 4 to 5 per cent fall in output may well prove over-optimistic."

According to the survey, almost half the firms questioned said they had experienced a fall in output, while just 9 per cent said output had risen. Forty-five per cent said they expected further redundancies against 7 per cent who expected to take on more people.

Some encouragement could be drawn from an easing in the decline in new enquiries for work and an increase in optimism about future workload. But, Mr Smith said, "I am greatly concerned that the amount of work in hand among our larger firms continues to fall away."

"I am afraid this reflects the gradual completion of large projects which are not being replaced by new orders."

Powell Duffryn sells fleet

By MICHAEL TATE

POWELL Duffryn, the storage and specialist engineering group, is pulling out of shipping with the sale of its Newcastle-based Stephenson Clarke Shipping business.

Stephenson Clarke, which operates a fleet of 16 dry bulk carriers aggregating 110,000 tons around the north European coastline, can trace its history back 270 years. The business has been part of Powell Duffryn since before the second world war.

In a deal that values the fleet at £19 million, the group is selling 60 per cent of the shipping company to private clients of Hambros Bank. Powell Duffryn will retain the remaining 40 per cent until "certain distributable profits" have been achieved, at which point Hambros has an option to buy at a nominal figure.

The sale is the latest step in Powell Duffryn's restructuring programme, which last week saw its two foundry businesses sold for £4.4 million. Powell pulled out of the aggregates business last October after a £30 million deal with Hanson.

Unaudited accounts for the year ended last month show that Stephenson Clarke made pre-tax profits of £1.4 million. The net book value was £22.4 million.

Tempus, page 20

Hanson sells Ever Ready to Ralston

By OUR CITY STAFF

HANSON has agreed the £132 million sale of its Ever Ready dry cell battery business to Ralston Purina, the American corporation better known for pet food products, in a deal that reunites the two sides of the Ever Ready business after three-quarters of a century apart.

Ralston already has the Eveready battery name and business outside Britain, bought in 1986 from Union Carbide, the corporation that took over the American company in 1914 when the British Ever Ready interests were floated off.

Hanson, led by Lord Hanson, had negotiated to buy the American Eveready operations from Ralston, but agreement could not be reached and the subsequent deal, which takes Hanson out of the batteries field it entered in 1981 with the purchase of BEREK, was struck.

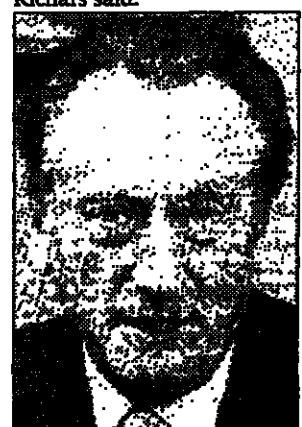
The business sold, excluding the South African operations which the Americans declined to buy, made £18.5 million at the operating level on sales of £87.1 million in the latest financial year.

Elmer J. Richards, a Ralston vice president, said the decision had been taken not to buy the South African activities in part on political grounds. "Maybe some time in the future we may take a look at it," Ever Ready employs

1,200 people in Britain. Mr Richards said there were no plans for redundancies or plant closures. The deal confirms its position as one of the two biggest dry cell battery producers in the world, standing alongside Duracell.

Hanson believes the business, where profits had declined to a third of their peak at the time of the original purchase, has been restructured and revamped to the point where the potential for improvement was limited.

Ever Ready sponsors the Derby classic horse race, committing some £600,000 each year. Ralston is contractually bound to continue support until 1994. "It's been an effective marketing tool," Mr Richards said.



Lord Hanson: deal

Aitch sells losing offshoots

By JONATHAN PRYNN

AITCH Holdings has announced further details of a financial reconstruction and a change of name to Dunkeld Group. These changes involve the sale of the main loss-making subsidiaries, leaving four operating companies in two product areas, shirts and ladies' leisurewear.

Stuart Hollander, the chairman, said these businesses are now operating profitably. The aggregate trading profits of the ladies' leisurewear businesses were more than £1.7 million in the year to end-November. Three other loss-making subsidiaries are to be sold.

The reconstruction involves a £500,000 term loan from the Industrial Development Board of Northern Ireland, a £5.3 million revolving facility and a £500,000 overdraft facility from Hill Samuel, and the renewal of a £2.4 million loan from Fennoscandia.

Aitch has agreed to allot new shares, representing 9.1 per cent and 0.8 per cent of its issued share capital, to Hill Samuel and Fennoscandia respectively. Losses, after extraordinary items and tax, for the year were £17.5 million.

The restructuring will leave the company with net current assets of £2 million and will reduce the deficit on shareholders' funds to £8.2 million.

Cinderella stocks thrown new lifeline

By RODNEY HOBSON

THE Stock Exchange's effort to breath life into 120 of its Cinderella stocks goes live in two weeks.

From April 27 these stocks, the least traded on the main and USM markets, will each be allocated a page on the exchange's Topic information service. Market makers and brokers will be able to see details of the previous ten trades in each company's shares so they can assess public interest.

At present, there may be no indication of any share price at which a market maker will deal. Companies that do not have at least two market makers willing to offer a continuous two-way share price will be consigned to the company bulletin board service.

The key to the new arrangements, which follow consultations with stock exchange members on a wide range of issues including market liquidity, is the company broker, who will be responsible for helping to match and execute bargains for other dealers. The com-

pany broker will also be responsible for providing information on the company, including latest profit figures.

By building up dealers' confidence in handling the stocks, the exchange hopes to improve liquidity and reduce the cost of buying and selling shares.

The innovation will not reduce the stocks involved to the matched-bargain level of non-SEAQ stocks which will continue to be traded under rule 535.2.

There is a danger, however, that designated shares will be regarded as second class citizens, with inclusion in the list drawing attention to the fact that the shares are not liquid.

Brian Winterhood, of Winterhood Securities, who has fought almost single-handed to maintain markets in USM stocks, greeted the new system with caution. He welcomed the move to make company brokers more responsible for the companies they sponsored, adding: "That is right and proper. Companies come to me and say they have become financial orphans." However, he feels the move is cosmetic. He said:

"I do not think it helps. With some small companies no matter what you do, the shares are not going to change hands."

Where the company broker is the only one willing to deal in the shares it may end up supplying information only to itself. Mr Winterhood added: "What is to stop the broker from putting deals across its own books to manipulate the price?"

The Stock Exchange has warned dealers against abusing the system, such as by leaving outdated orders or false indicative prices displayed. It says users of the service should be the first line of supervision and should complain to the exchange's market supervision department if necessary.

Companies may escape the ignominy of the company bulletin board service by persuading at least two market makers to register that they will make a continuous two-way price in the shares. Companies that drop below the requirement of two registered market makers will be relegated to the bulletin board.



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Attali shelves his soft loans

Nicholas Brady, the US treasury secretary, was the first to stop applauding when Jacques Attali finished an emotive speech urging the West to increase its efforts to help the Eastern European reform process. Mr Brady expressed his unhappiness even more vociferously in a speech during which he warned the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to put privatisation first and not to try to be "all things to all people".

He could not possibly have been more blunt in expressing American scepticism about the European Bank's strategy. Mr Brady's comments amount to an effective rebuttal of M Attali's hopes for Special Restructuring facility, which would allow the European Bank to grant soft loans, high-risk equity and technical assistance to tackle the thorny issue of reconstructing East Europe's industrial base and, especially, the unprofitable heavy industries. In the end, the governors who have gathered in Budapest for the European Bank's first annual meeting agreed on the typically face-saving formula: they will investigate the feasibility of such a programme. But the fundamental differences on the subject have only been papered over and the inevitable controversy has only been delayed to another date.

The clash of ideologies underlines three fundamental differences in philosophy about the nature of economic reform in Eastern Europe and the European Bank's involvement. The first is the substantive point of the method of economic reform: whether privatisation should always take priority over reconstruction. The second is whether reconstruction, if pursued, should be the responsibility of the European Bank. And, third, whether it requires additional funds.

On the issue of privatisation, M Attali has a point. The experiences of Eastern Germany, where the privatisation process is more advanced and where business conditions are infinitely more amenable than in Russia, shows only too clearly that heavy industries, especially shipbuilding, steel and defence, cannot easily be solved. When the Treuhander privatisation agency recognised these difficulties, it changed tack and broke up some of the businesses, modernising factories if possible and closing them down if not. Privatisation is not ruled out, merely postponed.

But Mr Brady's assertion that the European Bank should concentrate on its present remit carries greater weight. The European Bank has been endowed with important and well-defined tasks. First, to encourage private-sector investment and second, to assist with public-sector projects, such as telecommunications and infrastructure. This task is itself immensely difficult and the argument that the bank should walk before it attempts to run cannot easily be dismissed. The task of reconstruction of heavy industries and the notoriously difficult issue of sorting out the armaments business, either through closures or through tanks-into-tractor conversion schemes represents a mammoth task.

But even these considerations could prove academic if one considers the general reluctance throughout the West to provide more funds whether they are deserved or not. Britain is in a recession; America is in a recession and faces an election and so does France. The Japanese are more reluctant than anybody and the Germans have run out of money. The best way to help Eastern Europe is not to throw money at its problems, but to open up the formidable trade barriers that still exist as M Attali has rightly pointed out in his speech. The West will not invest in Eastern Europe if Eastern European companies have no viable export markets. It would not cost money, only courage.

The reliance of banks on vast share portfolios is threatening the stability of Tokyo's financial community, says Neil Bennett

Spring has arrived in Tokyo, and the trees are covered in pink cherry blossom, but the city's financial markets are buried in a gloom that verges on despair. The stock market is plunging relentlessly and Japan's financial analysts and regulators are worried that the slump threatens the stability of the country's banks and the very heart of its financial system.

Monday's 614-point fall in the Nikkei index to 17,237 emphasised the instability of Tokyo's financial markets. While there are occasional rallies, the market has dropped 16 per cent in the past month and dealers say the index could fall as low as 15,000 or even 12,000.

Every point lost is another blow for Japan's banks, whose balance sheets rely on the value of their vast share portfolios. In the past decade, these banks have become a mainstay of the world economy, and the reverberations of their troubles are already being felt around the globe.

Three years ago, the Japanese banks seemed invincible. Their size and apparently limitless access to cheap capital made western bankers despair of ever competing against them. Throughout the Eighties, the Japanese banks stormed into overseas markets offering unmatched terms to corporate borrowers. Today, there is hardly a leading European or American company that does not have a Japanese bank on its list of lenders.

All the time, however, the banks had feet of clay due to their reliance on massive equity holdings, which have inflated their capital and allowed them to expand their lending so aggressively. The root of the problem lies in the signing of the Capital Conversion Agreement in Basel, Switzerland, in 1987.

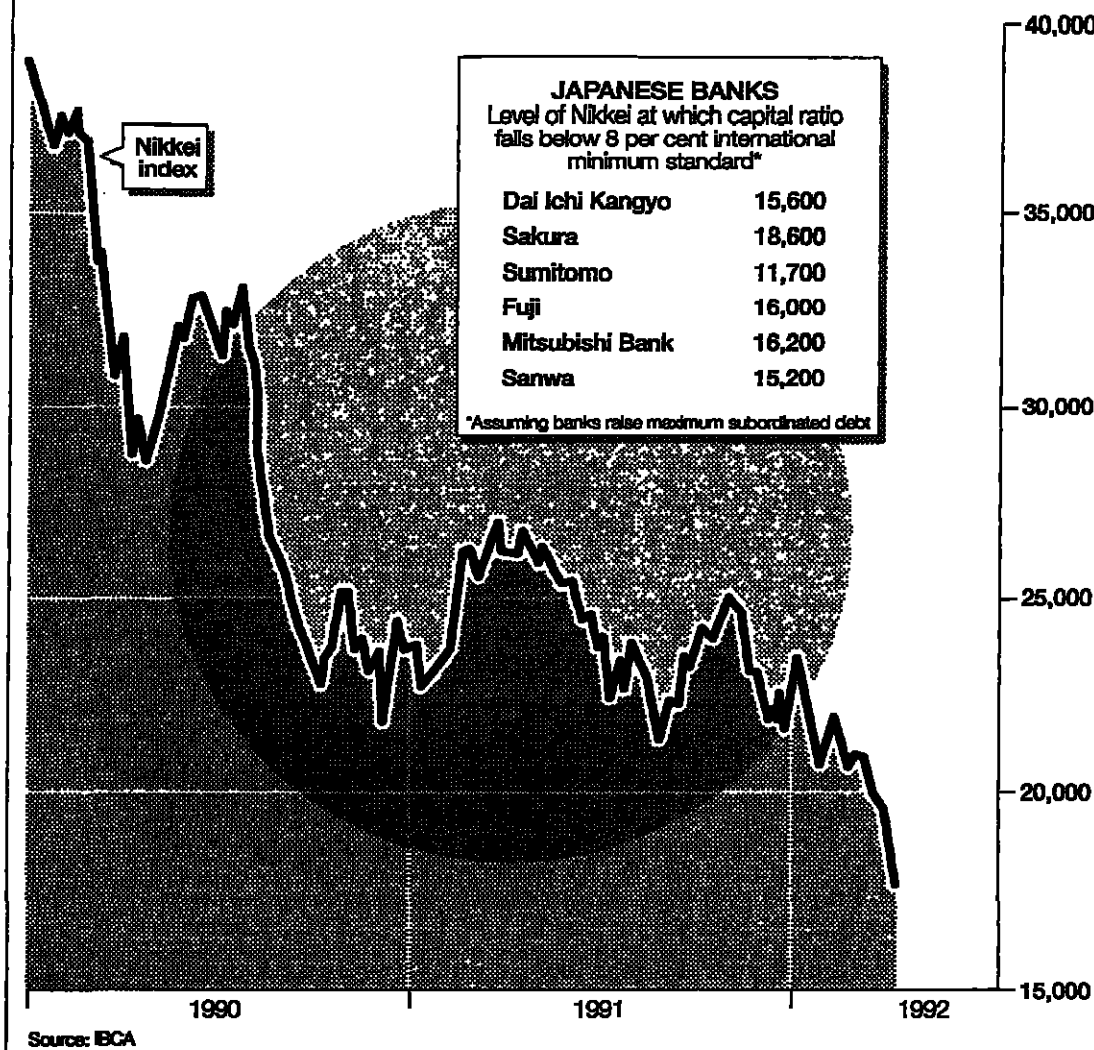
This agreement set out for the first time a common minimum standard for capital adequacy that all banks in the group of ten industrialised countries, including Britain and Japan, must comply with by next April. Under its terms, the capital resources of every bank must exceed 8 per cent of their risk-weighted assets. The shareholders' funds, or tier one capital, must exceed 4 per cent of risk-weighted assets.

While the agreement was being hammered out, the Bank of Japan lobbied hard to allow banks to include unrealised profits on securities holdings in their capital. Most Japanese banks have vast share portfolios, amassed after the second world war at low prices. Reluctantly, the other G10 central banks agreed to the Bank of Japan's demands and the agreement allows banks to include 45 per cent of unrealised profits on security portfolios.

With the Nikkei index climbing ever higher in the Eighties, reaching

Nikkei fall catches Japanese banks in a pincer movement

SLUMP IN SHARE PRICES SQUEEZES JAPAN'S BANKS



almost 40,000 at the end of 1989, the banks were unstoppable. Not only was the surplus on the share portfolios growing, but the bull market allowed the bank to issue huge tranches of new equity at low yields.

The recent collapse in share prices has smashed this virtuous cycle. According to estimates by IBCA, the debt-rating agency, the value of the surplus at Japan's 12 main city banks has been cut by almost half in the past year to ¥11.9 trillion (£51 billion) at the end of March. The low share prices have in turn made it impossible for the banks to replace this lost capital using share issues.

Several of Japan's most powerful banks already have capital ratios well below the 8 per cent international minimum, and they will be joined by many others if the Nikkei continues to fall.

Sakura Bank, formerly Mitsui Taiyo Kobe, is one of the worst affected. At the end of last month, IBCA estimated that Sakura's capital ratio stood at just 7.3 per cent. The Nippon Credit Bank is also thought to have failed to meet the minimum requirement, with a ratio of 7.66 per cent. Since the end of March, other banks are thought to have breached the limit as the Nikkei has declined, including Tokai Bank of Tokyo and the Industrial Bank of Japan.

Until now, the banks have been issuing vast amounts of subordinated loan notes to fill the black hole in their balance sheets. Analysts estimate that the banks have issued a total of ¥6 trillion in the last two years, and will launch another ¥2 trillion in this financial year.

These issues have been taken up by the Japanese life assurance groups and have been invaluable in shoring up the banks' capital. But there is a limit to their use. Under the Basel rules, the banks can only raise subordinated loans equivalent to half their tier one capital. Many banks are already approaching this limit. Once they reach it they will have no way of raising more funds.

The banks are effectively being backed into a corner and are becoming hostages to the Nikkei index. David Marshall, an IBCA analyst in Tokyo, estimates that Sakura's ratio will be below 8 per cent if the Nikkei remains under 18,600. Most city banks will fail to meet the requirement if the index slips under 15,000.

So far, the banks and Japan's finance ministry seem to be hoping that a stock market recovery will rescue them from this thorny situation. In Tokyo, however, there is a growing feeling that the MoF and

the Bank of Japan will look for ways to relax the Basel regulations. One suggestion is that the Japanese industry ministry will improve the guarantees on public sector loans to reduce their risk-asset weighting and boost the banks' capital ratios.

Alternatively, Yasushi Mieno, the governor of the Bank of Japan, may ask his fellow governors in the G10 to give the banks more time to meet the capital standards, perhaps an extra two years. Any attempt to relax the standards for Japanese institutions will be met with strong opposition from other central banks. Central banks are determined to ensure the Basel rules are enforced to ensure there is a level playing field in international banking. Any move to relax the rules would damage the credibility of the entire agreement.

The Japanese banks are already resorting to a more radical solution, namely shrinking their asset books. The banks achieved phenomenal growth throughout the Eighties, with loan books growing at up to 20 per cent a year. That growth came to a grinding halt 18 months ago, when the banks realised the scale of the problem.

All the city, or commercial, banks in Japan have been reducing their overseas lending and interbank exposure as fast as possible. Figures from the Bank of England show that

sterling loans by Japanese banks in Britain fell from £17.7 billion to £17.1 billion between September and December last year.

On the international scene, statistics from the Bank of International Settlements show that overseas loans from Japanese banks fell from a peak of US\$643 billion in mid-1990 to \$592 billion a year later. The decline is thought to be accelerating.

The asset books of almost all the Japanese banks are shrinking, as they shed low-yielding securities to improve their capital ratio. This, however, has awoken fears of a credit crunch among both domestic and international borrowers.

Peter Tasker, an economic analyst at Kleinwort Benson, in Tokyo, said: "At the moment, we are not yet seeing a credit crunch, more a credit crunch. Borrowers do not want to borrow. The impact of the Nikkei fall is not necessarily traumatic, but could be insidious and long lasting. The Japanese banks may simply not be in the market in future in the way they were. The alarm bells are flashing, but if the Nikkei falls below 16,000 we will be hearing sirens as well."

The effects could soon be felt more severely. Analysts estimate that Japanese corporations need to refinance \$100 billion of bond issues in the next three years. Much of the money will have to come from the banks, which are in no state to provide it.

As if the banks did not have enough problems, they are also beginning to face massive bad debt problems. Forecasts of the banks' bad debts range up to ¥20 trillion, although the true extent of the losses are unknown since the banks tend to support their troubled customers by relaxing their lending terms and injecting additional funds.

Most of the bad debts have been caused by the 30 per cent slump in Tokyo land prices. That has had a knock-on effect on mortgage companies and leasing businesses. Worst hit are the trust banks, such as Mitsubishi Trust, Sumitomo Trust and Yasuda, where bad debts may now account for more than 5 per cent of assets. Bad debts in turn are reducing the bank's net profits, which in turn is depressing retained earnings and preventing the banks from generating fresh capital internally.

The Japanese banks are caught in a vicious pincer movement caused by the fall in the Nikkei from which there is no obvious escape. The only consolation is that the international capital standards have no legal weight and there will be no official sanctions imposed on the banks if they fail to make the grade next year.

The unofficial sanctions of the world's financial markets, which might shut inadequately-funded institutions no matter how large, may be severe.

Unless the Tokyo stock market can conjure up a new bull market, or the MoF or the Bank of Japan can devise an ingenious escape, spring 1993 may be even colder than this year.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Paul Butti remembered

DIRECTORS and staff at brokers Fiske & Co were yesterday mourning the death of the third victim of Friday's IRA bomb attack in the City. Paul Butti, aged 29, an institutional and private client dealer. At the time of the explosion, Butti, who had been having a drink with a friend in The Globe on Broadgate was walking along St Mary Axe to meet his fiancée so that they could travel home by train together. They had lived together in Grays, Essex, for the past seven years and colleagues say they were planning to marry "as soon as the stock market improved so that there was a bit more cash and they could afford to do it in style". According to Gerald Noel, an associate director at Fiske, Butti was the youngest of a four-man team who joined the firm just six weeks ago. He was a most congenial young man, a little reserved, but good company and universally liked by his colleagues. We are all very upset for him and his family," says Noel.

Staying put

CITY lawyers Norton Rose, whose Camomile Street offices suffered severe damage in Friday's bombing, were not amused by an erroneous newspaper report in yesterday's *Independent*, claiming that they were being forced to move into Broadgate. More than 300 windows were shattered but the lawyers — whose Bahrain office was similarly hit by a Scud missile during the Gulf war — insist that they are resolutely staying put. "We stay, bombs or not,"



says spokesman Ron Cowles. "We weren't forced out by Saddam Hussein and we're certainly not going to be forced out by the IRA," Hear, hear!

In demand

SIR John Banham, retiring chairman of the CBI, seems further away than ever from spending more time in his native Cornwall, despite his often expressed desire to stop commuting to London. Today, he adds a non-executive directorship at Tarmac to his growing list of post-CBI activities which, with the exception of the chairmanship of West Country TV, based in Plymouth, are all likely to keep him far from the Cornish cliffs where he loves to walk. The portfolio now includes the chairmanship of the new royal commission on local government, and non-executive directorships at NatWest and National Power. He is also honorary treasurer for the Cancer Research Campaign and plans a book on business and government. *The Revolution That Never Was*. Sir John, who says he has had "more offers from publishers than I know what

to do with" plans to start writing in July and promises that he will now slow down on taking on new duties. "It's easy to become overloaded," he says. "There are a couple of things I'll still do but I'd be surprised if there are more than a couple of further appointments".

Merciful act

GEC's Lord Weinstock and Sir Anthony Cleaver, chairman of IBM UK, were among the luminaries of the computer industry donning black gowns last week as they were installed as liverymen of the most unlikely-sounding computer body yet — the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists. The computer buffs were officially recognized as the 100th worshipful company in January and their stated objective is to raise money for charity and to promote their members' interests. While they build up funds, however, they are having to make do without the traditional trappings of the more established livery companies and have run into problems over where to hold their official letters patent ceremony in May — as yet they do not have their own livery hall. To the rescue have come the Mercers, commonly tagged the number one worshipful company, not only because six centuries of endowments have left them richer than anyone else but because they were the first to gain royal approval in 1394. The Mercers have taken pity on them and are allowing the worthies in the stripping IT industry to hold their opening ceremony at Mercers Hall, Ironmonger Lane.

CAROL LEONARD

Failing to forecast Tokyo's fall

From Mr D H Walton FCMA
Sir, The bottom has fallen out of the Japanese stock market and many experts are acting as though this was a wholly unexpected event. Surely the seeds were sown over seven years ago. I am simply surprised it took so long for them to produce their crop.

What worries me is how many investors have been locked into this downward spiral by fund managers for the last two years. When the world's largest capitalised company has a p/e over 212, and the theoretical value of 100 acres of central Tokyo is greater than the sales value of all the real estate in California

the market is mad, and yet I recall when exactly those conditions applied we were being told by experts and fund managers that Japan was an exceptional opportunity.

No one has yet managed to repeal the laws of gravity and an overpriced market will always fall, but one asks how much of small investor money has once again been squandered by the highly paid experts in banks and institutions who do not have the common sense of their grandmothers.

Yours truly,
DAVID H WALTON,
10 St Guthlac's Close,
Crowland, Lincs.

Minimum wage

From Mr N P Hawkins
Sir, Your article of April 9 (Selling point for the minimum wage), implied that we believed that the introduction of the Labour party's proposals would have resulted in an increase in retail sales of £1.5 billion or more, without significantly affecting retailers' costs.

This was misleading; the two are obviously mutually exclusive. Our view was that Labour would fudge the issue, firstly by allowing £3.40 per hour to be eroded by inflation, and secondly, by allowing valuable non-statutory benefits (such as paid holiday) to count towards £3.40 per hour. The policy would therefore have had little effect on either costs or sales.

The policy was therefore a red herring for the stores sector. It is now a dead red herring.

Yours faithfully
N.P. HAWKINS,
Kleinwort Benson,
Securities Limited,
PO Box 560,
20 Fenchurch Street, EC3

Efficient DTI

From A Ross
Sir, We received exactly the opposite treatment from the DTI to that experienced by Mrs Stott (DTI "Hands Off" April 9). We applied to the DTI for an enterprise initiative grant. But unlike Mrs Stott we stressed the need for fast action.

We were contacted within two days and a consultant met us two days later. The Design Council paperwork took a further two days and we were able to commission a designer for our "Botanic Garden" project within two weeks of making formal contact. In addition, several helpful suggestions were made about further contact points in the DTI.

In our view the DTI deserves an efficiency initiative award of its own.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW ROSS,
Managing Director,
The Botanic Garden
Company Ltd,
86 Thames Road,
Chiswick, W4

NatWest tariffs

From Mrs J. M. Bradford,
Head of Small Business Services,
National Westminster Bank.
Sir, It is important that I correct the misleading impression created by a letter from Mrs Barbara Woodcock printed on April 8.

Small businesses opening an account with National Westminster Bank normally receive 12 months' free banking provided the account is maintained in credit. Thereafter, most will be charged in accordance with our published tariff, "Standard Account Charges for Start-Up and Smaller Businesses". As your correspondent states, this tariff is presently £6 per quarter, plus 64p per entry having been held at these levels since December 1990.

As our literature makes clear, however, this simplified tariff may not be suitable for businesses requiring us to handle large quantities of cash or cheques on their behalf. In these circumstances we provide a quotation at least one month prior to expiry of the existing arrangement, offering the opportunity to discuss and explore ways in which substitution of lower cost options might reduce the price. In the case mentioned, the quotation was given some three months in advance, involving the extension of free terms for that period.

The small business sector of the banking market is highly competitive and, in any other commercial environment our customers are free to shop around. The fact that some 30 per cent of small businesses choose NatWest as their banker clearly demonstrates the value for money we provide.

Yours faithfully
J. M. BRADFORD
National Westminster Bank,
8 Fenchurch Place, EC3.

Separate BIM merger from name change

From Mr B. Halson

Sir, You have published a number of letters about the proposal to drop "British" from the name of the British Institute of Management. May I ask you to publish one more?

I am chairman of the Westminster Branch of BIM, and since this particular issue arose, have spoken to many individual members about it. There is little doubt that the majority are in favour of joining with other institutions serving generalist managers, with the aim of raising the standard of British management. However, there are serious and widespread reservations about the change of name, and not merely for chauvinistic reasons.

On April 30, at an extraordinary general meeting, the members of BIM will be asked to vote. One would have hoped that the two issues: merger with the Institution of Industrial Management, and the change of name, would have been separated. However,

the key motion invites support for the merging of the two organisations to create the "Institute of Management". As it is not possible, therefore, to support the merger without at the same time agreeing to the change of name, I personally, and on a show of hands, the entire audience of one of our meetings last night, will reluctantly vote against.

Unfortunately, the inertia typical of most institutional memberships may well permit an apparently overwhelming endorsement of the proposal. (The IIM had a 98 per cent majority in favour, but only 25 per cent voted). Indeed, this seems to be taken for granted by the advocates of the proposal, who are already organising a modest (£80 per head) celebratory dinner: rather bad taste, one feels.

Yours faithfully,
BILL HANSON,
Flat 3,
Manderville Place,
W1.

Tax and the single breadwinner

From Janet Vaughan-Jones

Sir, Mr A. S. Owen (Letters March 31) and Gordon Nurse (Business letters April 8) have, like many others, got it wrong when comparing individual to joint salaries.

It doesn't matter whether one ends up with less or more, it is illogical to suggest that the salary of one person with a certain skill level, working a one person/week should be compared to the total of two lower salaries, possibly utilising different skill levels and working two person/weeks.

How any individual disposes of his salary is his choice and if a man decides to

share it with a non-earning partner this is a private social arrangement. It could even be argued that he will benefit from the unpaid input to his lifestyle, the two situations are certainly incomparable.

How one could argue that both should mathematically end up with exactly the same after deductions for tax etc is ridiculous. The same argument could be used to spread incomes between any number of non-taxpayers.

Yours faithfully,
J. VAUGHAN-JONES,
Riverside,
2 The Meadows,
Shawbury, Shropshire.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

© Times Newspapers Limited

DAILY DIVIDEND
£4,000

Claims required for +62 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

| | | | |
|-------------|-------|-----|-----|
| 992 | Price | Net | Yld |
| Low Company | per | div | % |

[illegible]

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|------|-----|------|
| Leand | 176 | + 4 | 5.7 | 4.4 | 16.0 |
| Prison | 154 | ... | 7.1 | 6.1 | 13.0 |
| Armed | 418 | ... | 4.9 | ... | ... |
| op & Counder | 165 | - 3 | 10.0 | 8.1 | 16.7 |
| op & Regard | 118 | ... | 9.9 | 1.0 | ... |
| stuffed Prop | 173 | - 7 | 2.4 | 1.8 | 78.8 |
| newfield | 283 | ... | 18.5 | 8.7 | ... |
| wide | 34 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| laute Nickels | 21 | ... | 0.7 | 4.8 | 29.5 |
| nykoma | 19 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| nyngan | 855 | +10 | 24.0 | 3.7 | 13.8 |
| stree Estater | 24 | ... | 0.2 | ... | ... |
| shenhan Town | 47 | + 4 | 6.0 | ... | 9.9 |
| Shogan | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 115 | ... | ... | 5.5 | 0.4 | ... |
| stewarts Hidge | 343 | - 7 | 8.6 | 1.3 | ... |
| stems Agency | 200 | ... | ... | ... | 22.3 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| ... Gen | 73 | ... | 3.7 | 7.1 | sw |
| ... Of Leeds | 105 | - 3 | 3.7 | 4.7 | 12.5 |
| ... Oaks | 24 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| ... King | 36 | ... | 2.3 | ... | 9.5 |
| ... mgrove | 275 | t | 13.8 | 6.7 | 27.8 |
| ... ranger | 104 | ... | 5.2 | 8.7 | 20.4 |
| ... Portland | 143 | + 4 | 10.0 | 9.3 | 12.9 |
| ... rycon | 33 | ... | 5.2 | 21.0 | ... |
| ... Lawr | 211 | - 1 | ... | 7.1 | em |

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| Andrew Gray | 39 | + 3 | 0.0 | 0.2 | |
| Armstrong | 362 | + 2 | 20.5 | 7.6 | 12.6 |
| Jo-A' | 132 | + 2 | 20.5 | 8.2 | 11.5 |
| Andrew Drace | 17 | ... | 10.0 | 14.7 | 29.4 |
| Ed Bell | 91 | - 2 | ... | ... | ... |
| Contingency | 23 | + 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Center Baker | 159 | - 2 | 6.5 | 5.5 | 8.2 |
| Gray | 185 | ... | 3.0 | 2.2 | 3.8 |
| and Soc | 392 | + 6 | 19.7 | 6.7 | 12.3 |
| on Interests Sec | 67 | ... | 3.6 | 7.2 | 9.7 |
| in & Micro | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| SEC | 24 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| EFEC | 262 | + 6 | 20.0 | 9.1 | 9.3 |
| Admney | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Admney | 122 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Admney | 43 | ... | 6.0 | 7.0 | 10.2 |
| Admney | 18 | ... | 10.5 | ... | ... |
| Admney | 18 | ... | 10.5 | ... | ... |

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| County | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| County | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| County | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| County | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| County | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| County | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| County | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| County | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| County | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| County | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| County | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| County | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| County | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| County | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| County | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| County | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| County | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| County | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----|------|------------|
| Santa Cruz | | 1.0 | | |
| Tough Enamel | + + 3 | 1.5 | 9.6 | ∞ |
| Wooden Pump | 52 | 1.8 | 9.2 | ∞ |
| Cyberlink | 5 ^a | + | ... | ... |
| Shampoo Pump | 25 | ... | ... | ... |
| Swan Centre | 75 | 1 | ... | 5.0 [6.2] |
| Asian Park | 48 | - 1 | 2.5 | 7.2 [13.7] |
| American Village | 45 | ... | 1.5 | 3.3 |
| Land | 16 | ... | ... | ... |
| Nion Square | 4 | ... | ... | ... |
| Stranger | 194 | + 4 | 10.0 | 6.9 [8.1] |
| Stratford | 200 | ... | 7.0 | 3.9 [8.4] |
| Stargate | 3 ^b | ... | ... | 0 |
| Starz | 50 | + | 3.7 | 8.4 [13.9] |
| Wed John D | 43 | + 4 | 1.5 | ... |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|------|-----|------|
| Monomagic | 26 | ... | 0.5 | 2.6 | ... |
| radiant | 74 | + | 2.4 | 4.3 | oo |
| Robert | 355 | + 5 | 12.5 | 4.7 | oo |
| Hard Gaster | 82 | + 5 | 1.5 | 2.4 | 12.1 |
| ong & Fisher | 30 | + | 1.0 | 4.4 | 8.4 |
| to | 156 | - 2 | 2.5 | 2.5 | ... |

| TEXTILES | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|------|-----|------|
| du | 2% | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| and Test | 395 | ... | 12.3 | 4.2 | oo |
| erman (A) | 68 | ... | 4.7 | 9.6 | 11.8 |
| non Gp | 35 | + 1 | ... | ... | 39.1 |
| Mohair | 152 | ... | 8.5 | 7.5 | 11.4 |

| Variable | Mean | SD | Min | Max |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|
| Age | 18.7 | 1.0 | 16.0 | 19.8 |
| Weight | 66 | 10.7 | 3.8 | 22 |
| Height | 1.73 | 0.05 | 1.6 | 1.8 |
| Gender | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0 | 1 |
| Married | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0 | 1 |
| Married Times | 4.91 | + 1 | 1.0 | 5.5 |
| Married | 2.06 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 5.8 |
| Married | 38 | ... | 5.3 | ... |
| Married | 71 | ... | 4.9 | 92 |
| Spouse | 36 | ... | 0.5 | 1.2 |
| Spouse (Index) | 124 | ... | 2.2 | 3.0 |
| Spouse | 101 | ... | 2.2 | 3.0 |
| Spouse | 40 | ... | 2.6 | ... |
| Spouse | 343 | + 2 | 12.0 | 4.7 |
| Spouse | 373 | ... | 0.7 | 1.5 |
| Spouse | 29 | ... | 0.4 | 1.2 |
| Spouse | 95 | ... | 0.4 | 1.2 |
| Spouse | 78 | ... | 2.5 | ... |
| Spouse | 75 | ... | 1.4 | 6.1 |

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|------|----------|
| ET | 41 | + 1 | 1.6 | |
| Far | 81 | ... | 5.1 | 8.5 13.3 |
| Long Cap | 31 | ... | 1.5 | 6.5 12.4 |
| Midland | 47 | ... | 2.5 | 7.1 17.0 |
| Nickerson | 268 | ... | 11.5 | 5.7 20.3 |
| St. Trust | 4 | ... | 0.2 | 8.3 11.2 |
| Waple | 219 | ... | 9.7 | 5.9 8.7 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------|------|-----|------|----------|
| TOBACCOS | | | | |
| T | 713 | + 3 | | 6.3 35.7 |
| STANBROS & | 1102 | +12 | 18.5 | 2.2 13.1 |

| | | | | |
|------------------|--|--|--|--|
| TRANSPORT | | | | |
|------------------|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| Or Br Force | 375 | + 7 | 8.0 | 2.8 | 3.14 |
| A | 591 | + 4 | 13.0 | 2.9 | 19.9 |
| Airways | 267 | + 3 | 8.8 | 4.4 | ... |
| Johnson (H) | 136 | + 0 | 8.0 | 8.2 | ... |
| James Newman | 99 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Unrated Line 388 | ... | -14 | ... | ... | ... |
| Unrated War | ... | -1 | ... | ... | ... |
| War (James) | 70 | ... | 5.5 | 10.5 | ... |
| alg | 84 | ... | 4.0 | 6.3 | 13.4 |
| ys | 184 | ... | 4.0 | 2.9 | 18.4 |
| als (IT) | 274 | + 4 | 1.9 | 9.2 | ... |
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LAW TIMES



Mixing disciplines: after the solicitors' conveyancing monopoly was opened up, solicitors increasingly wanted to offer 'one-stop shopping'

All under one roof

Robin Smith argues that purists cannot maintain their knee-jerk resistance to the notion of lawyers linking with other professionals to provide a one-stop service

Government proposals to allow "one-stop shopping" in the conveyancing market, with banks and building societies offering customers their mortgages, conveyancing and estate agency services under one roof, have been shelved. But pressure among solicitors' firms, accountants and patent agents to band together to provide legal and related services as a package will not go away.

The pressure for multi-disciplinary services is not just in the house-buying market. Some firms of accountants want to provide insolvency services together with lawyers, while in the intellectual property field, firms are keen to provide a comprehensive service to clients, doing the work not only of intellectual property lawyers but also of patent agents. Solicitors such as Dibb Lupton Broomhead, based in Leeds, and Stephenson Harwood in the City of London, now offer in-house patent agency and trademark services alongside their traditional intellectual property services, which are mainly litigation-based.

But already the moves have caused friction. There has recently been a well-publicised dispute between the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents (CIPA) and Dibb Lupton Broomhead about the latter's use of the term "Patent Agency" on its notepaper. The dispute has now been amicably settled. Dibb Lupton Broomhead agreed to drop the term "Patent Agency" from its letterhead; instead it will give greater emphasis to the professional qualifications of its chartered patent agents, thereby exploiting the mutual interest of both professions in the protection of intellectual property.

There were many in the professions who awaited the outcome with more than an immediate interest in intellectual property. The result of the settlement, however, is to give new prominence to the real issue, namely whether patent agents should become full partners in firms of solicitors.

Firms that want to act as patent agents argue that the distinction between the protection of intellectual property at the outset, and its protection when challenged, is an artificial one; further, that a client who believes he has a patent matter that should be handled by a patent agent may also need advice on the same matter about competition law or licensing. Intellectual property is a comprehensive subject and not one that can be split

into boxes created historically only for the convenience of the professions. Whether this view is right, only the market can decide.

In the past two years, responses to the very notion of multi-disciplinary partnerships (MDPs) from two bodies, the Council of the Law Society and the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents (CIPA), have varied. Most Law Society council members have a strong instinct — almost a knee-jerk reaction — which makes them vote "no" every time the subject is mentioned. The Law Society's policy remains opposed to multi-disciplinary partnerships. The CIPA says it has no objections in principle but is concerned to protect the influence of its members in the regulations under which they may operate in multi-disciplinary partnerships. Yet it is increasingly clear that the purist line

Outsiders think professionals should be free to band together as they choose

cannot be maintained. For a start, clients are not interested in the matter as one of principle. They might well choose to use a firm, or not to use it, on the basis of whether or not it has multi-disciplinary skills, but if challenged I doubt many would say that they were opposed in principle to the idea of MDPs.

Most outsiders would take the view that there should be complete freedom for professionals to band together in whatever units they choose, and for the market to decide in each case whether a particular multi-disciplinary service was preferable to single-disciplinary competitors.

There are a number of straws in the wind that would indicate that the conservatives in this debate are going to remain on the back foot for a long time, and may in the end have to concede. Accountants started the process many years ago with their management consultancies, and by employing professionals from other disciplines, including lawyers. The accountancy profession now has a

series of well-honed rules governing the relationships between accountants and other professionals, which appear to have worked satisfactorily. Certainly all the leading accountants run successful management-consultancy companies or partnerships in which accountants play a part, but by no means the leading part.

When the solicitors' so-called conveyancing monopoly was opened up to licensed conveyancers, and the prospect of a free-for-all loomed, many solicitors went into estate agency and employed surveyors for the purpose. The Law Society still retains rules that prevent surveyors taking partnerships in solicitor estate agencies, but that is an internal professional matter. So far as the outside world is concerned, solicitors' firms now sell houses and surveyors are part of the team. I doubt

that the client has the slightest idea or concern about whether the surveyor is remunerated by a share of profits or salary.

In the insolvency field, there have been a number of solicitor/accountant joint ventures directed at providing a comprehensive service in liquidations and receiverships, but they have not taken off so far. Accountants control most of the receivership work and lawyers have influence in liquidations. It has suited both sides to let those arrangements continue. The functions and professional duties of solicitors advising the liquidator or receiver and those of the liquidator/receiver himself are very different, so insolvency may well be an area in which multi-disciplinary practice has been tried and will not succeed simply because the market does not want it.

The extension of rights of audience to solicitors, the result of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1991, holds out the prospect of solicitors appearing in the High Court as advocates. If some of them do (there are bound to be a few

who will give it a try as soon as they can and their number will probably grow), will barristers retaliate by further developing their direct links with other professionals and with foreign clients? Barristers' freedom to approach clients abroad has already resulted in one set of chambers, in Brussels, operating in a way which is indistinguishable from that of a firm of solicitors or indeed any international law firm. These barristers publicly apply the "law firm" tag to themselves.

What is good for Brussels may very soon become good for London, too: there are many lawyers who regard the march for the slide, depending on one's point of view to fusion as inexorable, but there are virtually none who regard fusion as heralding the demise of the specialist advocate. Advocacy is highly valued and very scarce in its most developed form. The best advocates will always be able to earn more through advocacy than by spending time on preparation as well, and so they will remain specialist advocates whether within a law firm or as independent practitioners.

Indeed, the developing European dimension is likely to have consequences that are as yet imperfectly understood. From the beginning of this year, a lawyer qualified in any European Community jurisdiction can seek admission in any other, including the United Kingdom, by passing a simple competence test. The Law Society and the Bar Council therefore no longer have exclusive jurisdiction over entry into their respective branches of the legal profession.

Lawyers from other cultures and other traditions may well affect thinking in the United Kingdom, and in a European environment that encourages cross-border competition and is opposed to artificial constraints on trade there can be little doubt that those in favour of free competition are likely to come out on top. Arthur Andersen employs more lawyers in Madrid than any of the Spanish law firms, and multi-disciplinary partnerships are already a feature of the scene in Holland. But the conservatives need not fear the end of civilisation as they know it, simply because it is the market that will dictate the outcome. Multi-disciplinary partnerships are likely to emerge only to meet specific needs and the traditional professional divisions will continue to be dominant.

The author is managing partner of Dibb Lupton Broomhead, solicitors.

Public's verdict on homosexuality

SUMMING up in the recent Jason Donovan libel action, Mr Justice Drake is reported as saying: "If you say someone is homosexual and do not say that they have done it in circumstances which are illegal, it may not be defamatory. Whether it would make people think less of them would probably depend on the circumstances."

What circumstances? The media will have to learn to identify what the circumstances are and in doing so are likely to incur a lot of litigation. Meanwhile, journalists who like either writing or talking about the sexual orientation of others would be wise to find other topics for discussion.

There is likely to be great disagreement about what homosexual and lesbian mean. In any libel action, the trial judge would have to decide whether these words were capable of a defamatory meaning; and if he decided that they were, it would be for the jury to decide whether they were defamatory.

The words homosexual and lesbian may mean nothing more than having a sexual orientation towards the same sex. It is a matter of social experience that many who have such an orientation do not take part in sexual acts with others. There may be many reasons why they do not: religious beliefs, lack of inclination or opportunity.

If the view that male and female homosexuality have genetic causes is correct, it follows that being homosexual should not carry any moral stigma and that only the ignorant would consider a description of being homosexual defamatory. But is this restricted meaning the current one?

A trial judge would have to decide first whether these words were capable of having a wider meaning, namely, that a homosexual was somebody who took part in sexual acts with others, and secondly, whether, because of such participation, these words were capable of a defamatory meaning.

Judges would probably have no difficulty in deciding that in modern usage the words homosexual and lesbian could have a meaning beyond the merely descriptive one of sexual orientation. It would not be for him to decide that they had such a meaning; that would be for the jury. The much more difficult problem would be deciding whether the words with the wider meaning were capable of being defamatory. Judges would inevitably find themselves in an intellectual quagmire caused by the conflicting contentions of religion, history and modern liberal thinking.

These days, many people think that homosexual acts are as natural as heterosexual ones and that to discriminate against homosexuals is wrong and unjust and to regard anybody with such an orientation with "hatred, ridicule or contempt", to use the old language of the law, would be outrageous. Those who think in this way would be firmly of the opinion that the words homosexual and lesbian used by themselves were not capable of being defamatory. There might, however,

as in the Jason Donovan case, be a context that could produce a defamatory innuendo. Great Britain, however, is not inhabited solely by the liberally-minded. There are millions who describe themselves as Christians and hundreds of thousands who are Jews.

Those Christians who practised their religion might be familiar with St Paul's condemnation of both male and female homosexual acts (Romans 1, 26, 27); and Jews would know of the prohibition of male homosexual acts set out in Leviticus (18, 22) where they are described as an abomination.

For those people who accept the literal authority of the Bible as the foundation of their moral beliefs, homosexual acts are sinful, so it follows that for them a description of anybody that implied taking part in homosexual acts would have a defamatory meaning. Not all Christians, however, accept the literal authority of St Paul's Epistle to the Romans any more than they accept what the Book of Exodus prescribes as the way female slaves should be treated. They consider such passages reflections of the cultures of the times in which they were written. Judges would also

have to remind themselves that in 1917, the House of Lords adjudged that Christianity was not part of the law of England. How then is a judge to decide whether an allegation of taking part in homosexual acts in circumstances that were not criminal is capable of being defamatory? He cannot take a poll of public opinion. There are no statistics to which he could refer.

When a ruling does have to be made, the judge will probably guess that such an allegation is capable of being defamatory and rule accordingly.

Many members of the public would be outraged by such a ruling. It could be appealed.

What is likely to happen when the matter is left to the jury? Much will depend on the jury's composition. If the jury, in a particular case, really is a cross-section of the public — as it should be — it is likely to include some who are liberally minded, some who accept as binding what is in the Epistle to the Romans and in Leviticus and others unthinkingly prejudiced against homosexuals and lesbians.

Even if there were some degree of homogeneity of the jury (and that is unlikely), there would probably be regional variations. A jury empanelled from Hampshire might have on it a majority of the liberally minded whereas one from north Lancashire, where there are many Roman Catholics, would be likely to regard any form of homosexual acts as sinful.

Uncertainty about whether an allegation of homosexuality will be regarded as defamatory is likely to remain for some time. There may never be certainty, as in the 1940s and 1950s when allegations that somebody was a communist were common. Meanwhile, individuals may be severely damaged without having a certain remedy by false allegations being made about their sexual orientation. The author is a former Lord Justice of Appeal.



BRIEF
SIR FREDERICK LAWTON

Getting back on the track

Solicitors are usually renowned for their discretion. Michele Deverall is one of the few outside the profession who has an insight into how they think and what they worry about.

Deverall Associates, of Fulham Road, London, was established in 1989. Ms Deverall, who has worked for several organisations, including Arthur Andersen & Co, has developed an expertise in management training and in consultancy, psychoanalysis, psychotherapy and counselling.

In the past year, Ms Deverall has counselled more than 20 solicitors from the City's leading practices, usually aged between 34 and 42, and mostly partners.

Those referred to Ms Deverall are charged £450 for the first three-hour session. Most clients buy between six and eight hours' counselling. They can decide whether to continue attending on a personal basis.

Ms Deverall often starts by asking clients to discuss their family background, career history and any relationships that might have made an impact on their lives. One solicitor mentioned a one-night stand when he was 16, but failed to refer to his marital relationship. From her preliminary questioning, Ms Deverall tries to identify

Young lawyers are turning to counselling

behaviour patterns that may help to solve a client's underlying problems.

Ms Deverall has gained an insight into the solicitor's character traits. She comments: "One common thread is that most solicitors view themselves as individualistic and slightly eccentric. But to obtain a partnership, they must conform."

"During this period, they are sustained by the belief that on attaining partnership, there will be greater freedom to express their character. But because of the frenetic activity of the 1980s, such freedom has disappeared. This realisation has made some disillusioned and frustrated."

The continued requirement to spend long hours in the office, despite insufficient work to justify it, is one example of the constraints of partnership. The disillusionment fostered by long and often unproductive hours confined to the office has caused some to turn to heavy drinking and even drugs.

The downturn in work has created other problems. Some of the brightest and hardest-working solicitors have be-

come insecure and find a vacuum in their lives.

Ms Deverall recounts the case of a brilliant 28-year-old, who worried as his workload diminished. His solution was to revert to his childhood obsession, train-spotting. It started as a weekend hobby; by the time he sought help it had taken over. He had ceased to visit the office at all.

Even when a partner is seen to be in difficulties, his or her firm is often slow to react. "The solicitors' trade is the use of words," Ms Deverall says. "A partnership will often try to tie a problem up in semantics. The suggestion that a colleague may be an alcoholic could be countered with 'it depends what you mean by a drink problem'."

Ms Deverall emphasises that the vast majority of solicitors lead perfectly normal lives. However, the profession does attract a particular type of person. "Solicitors are often very bright and creative, yet they are also fundamentally very conventional," she explains. "They are not by nature philanthropists, although they may commit the occasion indiscretion. More often their problem is a difficulty in relating to people."

IAN HUNTER

Deverall Associates (071-589 4038).

Unsafe as houses

WILL the election of the new Conservative administration herald a revival of the commercial property market? Confidence in the market's recovery has plummeted in the past six months, especially among the banking sector, according to a survey by Theodore Goddard.

The City firm's survey found that only a third of the institutions polled thought the market would improve in the next two or three years and only 6 per cent expressed any expectation of recovery in the next six months.

When the firm did a survey last autumn, respondents thought they detected signs of recovery. Six months later, however, such confidence in the construction and banking sectors has dropped sharply. Only in the retail sector did a majority express optimism.

Gary Russell, head of Theodore Goddard's commercial property department, said the results boded badly for the immediate future and for lawyers.

What about me?

PART-TIME equity partners in big City law firms do exist; at least, one does. In the wake

INNS AND OUTS

of Law Times, March 24, which highlighted the paucity of women part-time partners, Gill Briant, an equity partner from Denton Hall, says she has been working part-time in fee-earning work for the past six years.

"Although I am only a part-time fee-earner," she says, "I am a full-time partner and the distinction is crucial because my desire to spend some time with my young family in no way diminishes my commitment to the firm. There is at least one example of a part-time, fee-earning equity partner, which I hope will encourage them to accept the arrival of others gracefully."

Sleep easy

PUBLIC fears about what is stored in the warehouse or factory door should be allayed soon by new rules giving local authorities the power to control the storage and use of hazardous waste on sites in England and Wales.

The rules will introduce a system of hazardous substances consents (HSCs), giving local authorities the power to control the storage and use of dangerous chemicals. Companies that store above a certain limit of any one of 71

substances listed in the schedule to the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990, which comes into force in June after seven years' debate, must apply for an HSC.

More lawyers

AT last more openings for part-time students of law. Birkbeck College has appointed Dr Peter Goodrich as its first Corporation of London professor of law. He will head



Blackstone: grateful

the development of teaching and research at the college's new department of law, which will provide a new LLB degree course, starting from October 1992.

Baroness Blackstone, Master of Birkbeck College, says: "I am tremendously grateful

to the Corporation of London for its support in the establishment of a law department at Birkbeck. We have been aware for a long time of the demand from mature students to study law part-time, and I am delighted that we will now be able to give them a chance to do so."

Rostra voters

PERHAPS not surprisingly, a recent Gallup poll for the Law Society found overwhelming support for the duty rota schemes managed by solicitors in courts and police stations.

Of 1,015 people questioned, 97 per cent thought that anybody taken to a police station and charged with a criminal offence should have automatic access to a solicitor and about 95 per cent thought that legal representation should be free.

The Law Society is using the survey to strengthen its hand in the long-running battle with the Lord Chancellor's department over fixed fees to come into magistrates' courts in place of the present system of hourly rates.

With the Conservatives re-elected, it seems that the society's arguments will continue to fall on deaf ears

because the previous government was committed to reducing the spiralling costs of legal aid and to introducing fixed fees by the summer.

IT puzzle

BRITISH law firms are still spending heavily on information technology but almost half of them are not able to monitor whether the investment has boosted profitability, according to a survey by the Robson Rhodes management consultants' division.

The survey also found that with word processing and other systems to support the administration of the practice now well established, firms are turning their attention to fee-earner support systems.

More than one in four of the big law firms is considering such systems and on average 30 per cent of practices already use them.

Jim Sloane, head of management consultancy at Robson Rhodes, says: "Most firms now realise that information technology is not a passing fad and judging by the levels of investment, it is consuming large amounts of partnership finance, even in a recession."

"However, the fact that so many firms are unable to measure the returns on their investment must give cause for concern."

SCRIVENOR

COMMON MARKET LAW REPORTS

1962-1992

SPECIAL ISSUE

The Treaty of Rome Consolidated and the Treaty of Maastricht

Editors: Neville March Hunnings
Joe MacDonald Hill

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Brake on boardroom pay

Shareholders have the power to limit the excesses of directors' pay awards, explains Melanie Tether

The simmering controversy over boardroom pay has come to the boil again. Recent figures from the British Institute of Management show that during 1991 directors of large companies enjoyed pay rises of more than twice the rate of inflation.

With corporate profitability in decline, it looks as though many directors are cutting themselves a larger slice of a smaller cake.

Shareholders often suppose that apart from expressing their disapproval at the next annual general meeting, there is nothing they can do to prevent the directors awarding themselves lavish service contracts. It is not widely appreciated that the shareholders may be entitled to revoke these if they are excessively generous.

Although a company's articles of association normally make the board responsible for fixing the terms of the directors' service contracts, the directors have a duty to exercise their powers in the company's best interests. If they abuse them by approving service contracts which benefit the directors rather than the company, the shareholders can set the contracts aside. Shareholders must, however, act promptly: their right to object may be lost if they delay.

Directors' service contracts are most commonly challenged because they entitle the directors to excessive remuneration or make it inordinately expensive for the company to dismiss them. Directors' remuneration may be excessive if it is significantly higher than that of directors in other companies of similar size and profitability or if they are guaranteed huge annual bonuses regardless of the company's performance. Their protection from dismissal may be unreasonable if the company is obliged to continue their employment for unduly long periods or to give them substantial pay-offs on dismissal.

Any dispute about the validity of a director's service contract has to be resolved by the courts. The court will not substitute its opinion for the



Thanks of the board: Sir Ralph Halpern, former Burton chief executive, received a £1 million a year salary and a £2 million payoff

board's; it will set the contract aside only if it is satisfied that no reasonable board of directors, with the best interests of the company at heart, could have concluded that it would benefit the company.

When repudiated by the shareholders, service contracts become legally void. This has serious consequences for the individual directors, who will not only be obliged to repay sums already received under the contracts but may also lose the right to receive any recompense for their services. Guinness sued Thomas Ward, a former director, for the return of a £5.2 million fee relating to the takeover bid for Distillers which had been paid to him by a sub-committee of the board with no power to authorise it. The House of Lords held that Mr

Ward was obliged to repay the entire sum and could not retain a reasonable allowance for the services he had rendered. This was because a director is entitled to remuneration only in accordance with the company's articles of association.

Courts are likely to apply the same reasoning where a service contract that has been authorised by the board is rescinded by the shareholders. The director who has an excessively generous service contract is not the only person at risk if the shareholders disclaim it. If sums paid out under the contract cannot be recovered, the directors who approved it will be liable to make good the company's loss.

It is often said that shareholders' interests in ensuring that directors' service contracts are fair and reasonable can be adequately protected if the contracts are negotiated by a compensation committee dominated by non-executive directors. But many of the payments that have recently caused raised eyebrows, such as the £1 million a year pay packet and £2 million golden handshake paid to former Burton director Sir Ralph Halpern, have occurred in companies where this safeguard has been adopted.

In the United States, the realisation that the use of independent directors to fix executive compensation has not kept the lid on corporate pay led the Securities and Exchange Commission to announce in February that American

shareholders will in future have the right to vote on executive remuneration packages.

Most British companies operate under articles of association that allow the shareholders to contest directors' service contracts only if they can show that the directors have abused their powers. Usually, however, there is nothing to prevent them changing the articles to get greater control over the terms on which directors are employed. From the shareholders' perspective, this could be a more attractive option than resorting to legal challenges that may take years.

The author is a solicitor with Norton Rose. "Directors at Risk", on the legal responsibilities of company directors, is available free from the Norton Rose MS Group.

Stop talking in tongues

Solicitors must learn to speak the language of their clients

Many solicitors are cantankerous individualists by nature, happy to spend their lives teasing out knotty legal issues. They need to be regularly reminded that they have real people as clients and that organisational efficiency is essential to an effective legal service.

One of the aims of the new professional skills course is to make sure young lawyers absorb these lessons from the very start of their careers. Among an array of important skills required of the solicitor will be the ability to understand how best to communicate and to see things from the client's viewpoint.

Effective Interviewing (Blackstone Press, £10.95, ISBN 1-85431-167-0), a new book by Helena Twist, director of legal education at Nabarro Nathanson, looks at many of these topics. "A successful interviewer is someone who has developed a repertoire of skills and the ability to put them into practice. You can train yourself to listen more carefully, to observe more closely and to develop different questioning styles," she says.

There is little question that empathy and rapport with one's clients secure their loyalty. "You must learn to be very observant," says Ms Twist. "Your responses and behaviour can sometimes unconsciously skew the relationship."

She recommends that the lawyer, as well as avoiding legal jargon, should build up an understanding of the business terminology of the client. "Too often lawyers seem to think that their task is merely to explain and interpret the law to their clients," she says. "Unless you understand a client's business, you will not be able to give effective commercial advice."

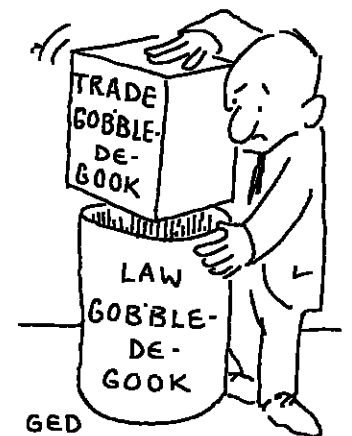
One of the most difficult situations for lawyers, especially the young or inexperienced, is when the client seems to ignore their advice. Ms Twist says the more confident you appear, the more likely it is that the client will take your advice seriously. Body language can be more important than legal language in building confidence in your client.

Clients being fobbed off with young lawyers is, however, just as much an organisational as a communication problem. It is one that

is written about by William Newbold, recently of Sundridge Park Management Centre and now managing director of Central Law Management, in his book, *Organising Lawyers* (Chancery Law Publishing, £15, ISBN 1-85630-003-3).

Mr Newbold gives a variety of examples of the way law firms are now structured and managed. The very diversity and complexity of the arrangements which they have evolved for delivering the same service illustrate the lack of consensus on the best way of doing it.

Effective delegation is one of the key principles of good management, so on a routine matter it makes sense for a junior lawyer to meet the client. Clients, however, do not necessarily see it that way



because partner time and attention is what they want.

Squaring that circle is one of the biggest organisational issues facing law firms. It is compounded by the increasing specialisation even within medium-sized firms. Specialist expertise may be needed to deal with a particular problem but it can weaken the client relationship. Mr Newbold is clearly committed to the departmental approach to managing law firms, even giving them priority over branches. "I see branches as the outlet for services in the same way as Marks & Spencer's head office treats the stores as outlets in different locations providing varying services but always to a common high quality."

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Visitors passport insufficient

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Minia

Before Lord Justice Parker, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Beldam

[Judgment April 8]

A British Visitors Passport was not a passport to which section 3(9) of the Immigration Act 1971 applied. Accordingly, an immigration officer, requiring to be satisfied that a person seeking entry into the United Kingdom was a British citizen, could, but was not obliged to be so satisfied when the only documentary proof tendered was a British Visitors Passport.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the applicant, John Kwasi Minia, from the decision of Mr Justice Hutchison (The Times June 24, 1991), refusing his application for judicial review.

The applicant maintained that he was John Kwasi Minia Aluamoh, born in the UK on October 11, 1963, as evidenced by a birth certificate, and was therefore a British citizen. He went to Belgium on holiday in August 1988 on a British Visitors Passport (BVP) issued in the name of John Kwasi Minia.

On his return he was refused entry by an immigration officer who was not satisfied that he was a British citizen. He appealed to the adjudicator who reversed the decision stating that the BVP was *prima facie* evidence of citizenship, that the burden was on the Home Secretary to prove that the applicant had obtained a BVP to which he was not entitled and that the Home Secretary had not

discharged that onus.

The Home Secretary appealed to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal. They took the point that neither the adjudicator nor they had the jurisdiction to entertain the appeal because the case fell within section 13(3) of the Immigration Act 1971. The applicant sought judicial review of that decision.

Section 3(8) of the 1971 Act requires a person asserting British citizenship to prove it.

Section 3(9) of the 1971 Act, as substituted by section 3(1) of the Immigration Act 1988, provides: "A person seeking to enter the United Kingdom and claiming to have the right of abode there shall prove that he has that right by means of either (a) a United Kingdom passport describing him as a British citizen or as a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies having the right of abode in the United Kingdom; or (b) a certificate of entitlement ... certifying that he has such right of abode."

Section 13(3) of the 1971 Act, as substituted by section 3(2) of the 1988 Act, provides: "A person shall not be entitled to appeal on the ground that he has a right of abode in the United Kingdom unless he holds such a passport or certificate as is mentioned in section 3(9) above."

Mr Philip Engelmann for the applicant Miss Alison Foster for the Home Secretary.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that before the Home Secretary to prove that the applicant had obtained a BVP to which he was not entitled and that the Home Secretary had not

having an unrestricted right to enter was by the production of a full United Kingdom passport describing him as a British citizen, under section 3(9). The judge accepted that submission.

Miss Foster did not seek to uphold that extreme construction before the court. She accepted that the immigration officer might be satisfied on other evidence whether documentary or oral, that the entrant was a British citizen, but he was not required to do so. Only if the entrant produced a UK passport describing him as a British citizen was he bound to accept it as proof.

In his Lordship's judgment, that was the effect of section 3(8) and 3(9) coupled with the provisions of Schedule 2. It would still leave it open to the immigration authority to assert that the full UK passport was either a forgery or stolen or did not relate to the entrant. That was because Parliament had provided that that document and the certificate referred to in section 3(9) were sufficient to constitute proof of citizenship.

That being so, Miss Foster submitted first that the immigration officer was entitled not to be satisfied that the applicant was a British citizen, notwithstanding his BVP, and second that there was no appeal from that decision to the adjudicator since a BVP was not a document which was required by section 3(9) and therefore section 13(3) applied.

She accepted that the decision of the immigration officer was subject to judicial review but only on well recognised principles. The decision which was based on

marked discrepancies in the applicant's account and lack of any convincing description of where he had lived or what he had done in the country could be attacked only if it was irrational and Mr Engelmann had not suggested that it was.

Like the full national passport, the BVP was issued under the prerogative. But there were two important differences in the procedure for obtaining it.

It could be obtained on application to a post office and not to the passport office and it was not necessary to produce certification of identity by a reputable person who had known the applicant for at least two years and accordingly it was more readily obtainable.

His Lordship could not accept Mr Engelmann's submission that a BVP was a passport to which section 3(9) applied. It did not, unlike the full national passport, describe the holder as a British citizen and made it plain that it was not definite evidence of national status, although no doubt in a majority of cases a BVP was accepted by immigration officers as satisfying the onus of proof under section 3(8).

A BVP not being within section 3(9) was the same category as a birth certificate or any other document which might tend to show citizenship but did not necessarily amount to proof of it. For that reason the adjudicator was wrong in the view he took of the present case.

LORD JUSTICE PARKER and LORD JUSTICE BELDAM agreed.

Solicitors: Nimoh Akinyah & Co., Camberwell; Treasury Solicitor.

1846 railway land Act repealed

Freedman and Others v British Railways Board and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Taylor and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith

[Judgment April 9]

Land compulsorily purchased in 1846 by the Great Northern Railway Company and which was no longer required for the purposes for which it was originally purchased did not have to be first offered for sale back to the successors in title of the original owners at the 1846 price.

The sections of the Great Northern Railway Act 1846 which contained the right of pre-emption claimed by the successors to the original owners had been repealed and were no longer effective.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing appeals by the defendants, British Railways Board and National Carriers Ltd, against the decision of Mr Justice Hoffmann (The Times April 5, 1990) that sections 57 and 102 of the 1846 Act enabled the plaintiffs, the special trustees of St Bartholomew's Hospital, and the Church Commissioners, as successors in title of the original owners, to buy back some 52 acres of land at King's Cross, London and rejecting a cross-appeal by the plaintiffs against a decision that they had no right to buy back a further eight acres of land at the site.

Mr Edward Nuge, QC and Mr Terence Eshem for the trustees; Mr David Lowe, QC and Mr Charles Turbott for the

Church Commissioners; Mr Gavin Lightman, QC, Mr John Whitaker and Miss Bridget Lucas for British Rail Board; Mr Robert Reid, QC and Mr Simon Berry, QC, for National Carriers.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said the land was part of an area of about 125 acres on which the defendants planned to build the Channel Tunnel rail terminus and a large commercial development.

If the judge's decision stood, the financial consequences would be enormous to both sides. For land for which their predecessors were paid full value at the time, the plaintiffs would pocket windfalls of vast proportions.

On the other hand if British Rail and National Carriers had to lay out the current value of more than two-fifths of the land required for the development, its cost would be vastly increased and might put the construction of the new terminal in jeopardy.

Section 57 of the 1846 Act applied only to land taken from the hospital, and stated: "And be it enacted, that the whole of the ground which may be compulsorily taken by the said company from the said hospital under the provisions of this Act shall be taken within three years from the passing of this Act; and that if at any time or times after the said railway shall be completed any of the said lands so compulsorily taken by the said company shall not be used and required for the purposes for which the said company is hereby incorporated, then and in such case the said railway company shall and they are

hereby required to offer forthwith such land to the said governors at a sum not exceeding the original price paid for the same by the said railway company, and the said governors are hereby authorised at their option to re-purchase the same at such price."

In his Lordship's view the section applied without any time limit to the land purchased from the hospital and the hospital's right of pre-emption still existed unless repealed by subsequent legislation.

Section 102 was of general application and stated: "And be it enacted, that if at any time or times after the said railway shall be completed such railway or any part thereof shall from unforeseen circumstances be discontinued, and not used for the purposes of carrying passengers or carrying goods or other traffic, then and in such case the said railway company shall and they are hereby compelled in the first instance to offer the land whereon such railway shall have been constructed to the original proprietors of such lands purchased for the purposes of making such railway, or their assigns or legal representatives, at a sum not exceeding the original price paid for the same by the said railway company."

There was no reason to apply any time limit to that clause either. But it did not apply to the subject of land which was the subject of the hospital's cross-appeal.

In his Lordship's judgment sections 57 and 102 had both been repealed by the British Transport Commission Act 1949

so the appeal succeeded and the cross-appeal failed.

LORD JUSTICE TAYLOR agreed that no time limit could be set on either section 57 or section 102. In his Lordship's view both sections had been repealed by the London and North Eastern Railway Act 1935, although if he was wrong, they had been expressly repealed by the British Transport Commission Act 1949.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH considered that section 57 of the 1846 Act was subject to a time-limit of ten years imposed by section 128 of the Land Clauses Consolidation Act 1825 which was incorporated into it. However, section 102, as providing for a right of pre-emption, if and when the railway company obtained a power to discontinue and a power to sell from some other statutory power not contained in the 1846 Act. Section 102 had been repealed by the 1935 Act, and if not by that Act, by the 1949 Act.

If anyone was to receive a vast windfall, the two plaintiffs were no doubt among the most deserving recipients. But they had each received the full building value of the land in the 1850s and should with proper investment and management stand possessed of investments representing the inflated value of the land they sold.

On the other hand, if the plaintiffs had been right, the defendants would have had to part with land for which their predecessors paid full value for a mere trifle of its present value.

Solicitors: Wilde Sapte; Waltons & Morse; Nabarro Nathanson; McKenna & Co.

071-481 4481

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

071-481 9313
071-782 7828

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie to the South East of the Bahamas and consist of two groups of islands separated by a deep water channel. Tourism, off-shore financial services and the government sector are the main sources of employment and fishing is an important activity. A tropical climate and fine beaches characterise the islands.

Attorney General

Reporting directly to His Excellency, the Governor, you will work in association with three Senior Crown Counsel and a Legal Draughtsman. You will provide legal advice encompassing all aspects of government functions from internal security to external relations. Civil litigation, the drafting of primary and subsidiary legislation and work within the Magistrate's Court, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal, all fall within your brief.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should be European Community Nationals, proficient in English. You should have been called or admitted as a Barrister or admitted as a Solicitor in a Commonwealth Jurisdiction with ten years' experience in a wide field of law. This will include experience in Advocacy in a variety of civil and criminal tribunals and considerable experience in conveyancing and commercial transactions. Advisory expertise and the ability to manage an office is essential. Knowledge of local government/government law and off-shore financial services will be advantageous.

Senior Crown Counsel

Reporting to the Attorney General and working in association with 2 additional Senior Crown Counsel and one Legal Draughtsman, you will provide legal advice to the Government.

You will appear in the Magistrate's Court, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal as an advocate on behalf of the Crown and arrange and supervise such advocacy by Crown Counsel. In addition you will be responsible for civil litigation by and against the Government as well as negotiating agreements, between Government and third parties.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should be European Community Nationals, proficient in English, who have qualified as a Barrister or Solicitor, with at least 3 years' PQE experience of sufficient breadth and quality to be able to fulfil the requirements of the Terms of Reference. Experience of off-shore finance services would be a particular advantage.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENTS

You will be on contract to the British Government for 2 years, on loan to the Government of Turks and Caicos Islands. Salary (UK taxable) will be £46,400 p.a. for the Attorney General and £36,400 p.a. for the Senior Crown Counsel, for the duration of the appointments. Additional benefits will normally include variable tax-free allowances, children's educational allowances, free accommodation and passages and annual fare paid leave.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 8th May, 1992. For further details and application form, please write to Appointments Officer, Ref No AH364/AB/TT, Abercrombie House, Eaglesham Road, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 8EA, or telephone 0355 843243.

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100, boulevard Konrad Adenauer
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Applications will be treated in strictest confidence.

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The Director of Programmes, Paul Vaughan, will be pleased to deal with enquiries: 081-316 9040.

Appointments will be from 1 September 1992 or earlier. Salary scale: £12,789 - £23,280 (bar) - £25,905 per annum inclusive.

Application forms and further particulars available from the Staffing Officer, Personnel Office, Thames Polytechnic, Southwood House, Avery Hill Road, Eltham, London SE9 2HB to be returned by 5 May 1992.

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Full details of chambers are available in the Chambers Brochure.

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[illegible]

Youthful party picked for New Zealand Steele is recast in supporting role on England B tour

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Steele, whose maturing skills as stand-off half have been so influential in Northampton's rise towards the top of the English club tree this season, has been invited to play second fiddle to Ian Hunter, his club colleague, on England's B tour of New Zealand this summer.

The irony will not escape Hunter, the full back who has been used so much as a wing in England squads. However he has been an effective contributor from full back on England's unbeaten 1992 B season and was the only specialist named in a party of 30 yesterday for the eight-match tour, which begins on June 1.

Steele is one of three stand-off halves, alongside Stuart Barnes, the tour captain, and Neil Matthews, from Gloucester. Graham Smith, the tour manager, said he had spoken about playing full back to Steele, who was happy with the situation.

"The fact that he is an outstanding place-kicker was born in mind when you consider the sort of rugby we

have been trying to play, you can see how our minds have been working," Smith said.

He emphasised the versatility in the party, notably at prop and in the back row. It is the aim to give every tour member two games in the first four matches before settling into the most effective combination for the two "international" matches at Hamilton and Pukekohe.

It is a young party, since the selectors have not chosen such seasoned international players as Andy Robinson, Nigel Redman and David Egeon, and 13 others were unavailable. He hopes they will not regret the absence of such as Robinson and since Steve Bates was not available, I would have been tempted to invite Marcus Hannafor, from Gloucester, to be one of the two scrum halves.

"The aim is not necessarily to win every game... but if we come back with five or six players who demand consideration, who look capable of making the big step to senior international level, I think the

tour will have been a success," Smith said.

Three of the party, Andrew Harriman, Mark Russell and Kardooni, have been recovering from injury and will be expected to play some form of rugby before the season's end.

ENGLAND B PARTY: Backs: 1. Ian Hunter (Northampton), 2. John Steele (Northampton), 3. Stuart Barnes (Gloucester), 4. Neil Matthews (Gloucester), 5. Graham Smith (Gloucester), 6. Ian Hunter (Northampton), 7. John Steele (Northampton), 8. Stuart Barnes (Gloucester), 9. Neil Matthews (Gloucester), 10. Graham Smith (Gloucester), 11. Ian Hunter (Northampton), 12. John Steele (Northampton), 13. Stuart Barnes (Gloucester), 14. Neil Matthews (Gloucester), 15. Graham Smith (Gloucester), 16. Ian Hunter (Northampton), 17. John Steele (Northampton), 18. Stuart Barnes (Gloucester), 19. Neil Matthews (Gloucester), 20. Graham Smith (Gloucester), 21. Ian Hunter (Northampton), 22. John Steele (Northampton), 23. Stuart Barnes (Gloucester), 24. Neil Matthews (Gloucester), 25. Graham Smith (Gloucester), 26. Ian Hunter (Northampton), 27. John Steele (Northampton), 28. Stuart Barnes (Gloucester), 29. Neil Matthews (Gloucester), 30. Graham Smith (Gloucester).

ITINERARY: June 12: v North Otago (Christchurch); 13: v South Otago (Dunedin); 14: v Canterbury (Christchurch); 15: v Otago (Dunedin); 16: v Otago (Dunedin); 17: v Otago (Dunedin); 18: v Otago (Dunedin); 19: v Otago (Dunedin); 20: v Otago (Dunedin); 21: v Otago (Dunedin); 22: v Otago (Dunedin); 23: v Otago (Dunedin); 24: v Otago (Dunedin); 25: v Otago (Dunedin); 26: v Otago (Dunedin); 27: v Otago (Dunedin); 28: v Otago (Dunedin); 29: v Otago (Dunedin); 30: v Otago (Dunedin).

S Africa awaits cup call

By CHRIS THAU

DESPITE the misgivings generated by the political uncertainty in South Africa, the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) council now meeting in New Zealand is likely to award the 1995 Rugby World Cup to the republic.

With Scotland, France, Australia, England, Argentina and Italy committed to support South Africa and with the other countries sympathetic to the bid it looks as if only Wales will oppose the proposal.

Bill Hogg, the Scottish Rugby Union secretary, announced that Scotland has instructed its IRFB representa-

tatives to vote for South Africa, while the French IRFB delegate and World Cup director, Marcel Martin, confirmed that France will back the application.

Dudley Wood, the Rugby Football Union secretary, also said that England, though acutely aware of the political developments in South Africa, strongly favoured their application.

Two of the new IRFB council members, Argentina and Italy, fully support the South African bid.

As the host nation, South Africa would be one of the four nations qualified for the

World Cup final round, if the board approves a proposal by Russ Thomas, the World Cup director. He wants the number of teams qualifying directly for the finals reduced from eight to four. It would include the finalists in 1991, Australia and England, the winner of the third-place play-off, New Zealand, and the host nation.

It would also mean that last year's quarter-finalists, Western Samoa, Canada, Scotland, Ireland and France, would have to enter the qualifying rounds, due to start early next year.

BOXING

Ribalta unable to take his cue

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

JOSÉ Ribalta, the man Frank Bruno faces in the second round of his comeback at Wembley on April 22, left the hype-men struggling for words when he met them yesterday.

Everybody knew Ribalta, a former world contender, had been brought over by the promoter, Micky Duff, to make Bruno look a little more convincing in victory than the time he bombed out John Emmen, of The Netherlands, in one round. Ribalta was what they call "a name opponent".

Everyone also knew that sure things had gone wrong in the past with Bruno, as when James "Bones" Smith and Jumbo Cummings came over.

If only the big Cuban would say something to dispel the view that he would not last more than a few rounds with Big Frank. If only the big Cuban would come up with the punchline. If only... But Ribalta kept slipping leading questions as if they were Bruno left-hands. His answers were not only boxing clichés, but ones that had not even collected dust on the shelf.

There was the sparring partner whose nose he had broken last week, Russell Watson, the next white hope, according to Ribalta's manager, Felix Pinto. Despite a deep cut across the bridge of his nose, Watson was still going to carry on sparring.

"This is the best José has ever looked," he said. This was more like it. Then came the best of all: this was a grudge fight.

Back in 1989, Bruno had got in the way of a world title bout with Mike Tyson. Ribalta wanted to thank Micky Duff for giving him the opportunity to pay Bruno back. Broken nose, white hope, grudge fight, the stuff of boxing promotions. As antiquated dealers in State States hate to say, "So what's new?"



Pitcher portrait: Matt Young, of the Boston Red Sox, yields no hits for eight innings on Sunday but seven walks enable the Cleveland Indians to win 2-1

TABLE TENNIS

Parker's protest is upheld

By RICHARD EATON

DONALD Parker, the England manager, already certain of winning a European championship medal with his men's team for a third successive time, also won a protest against the timing of the match against Sweden, the world champions, in Stuttgart yesterday.

Parker complained that the match in the other group between Germany and France took place later than England's. This, potentially,

gave the home team, already certain of qualifying for a medal, the opportunity of seeing who won and to pick their semi-final opponents, by losing to France if necessary. France had to beat Germany if they were to prevent Belgium qualifying instead.

"This all seemed quite unfair to me and I'm glad to say the organisers agreed," Parker said. "It meant moving our match an hour and a half later, but that's fine."

The England women's team was left to play for positions five to eight instead of battling to avoid relegation, thanks largely to world-class performances from Lisa Lomas.

She followed her victory over the European champion, Daniela Guergelcheva, of Bulgaria, by beating the European No. 3, Wang Xiao Ming, thus clinching England an unexpected 3-1 success over France.

IN BRIEF

Conner to sail off for final

The walkover win by America's over Kanza yesterday has left Kanza and Dennis Conner's Stars & Stripes to sail off to determine the second America's Cup defender finalist. Yesterday's victory assured America's of a place in the final.

The forecast for the sail-off, ten to 15 knots raising 2ft seas on a 3ft swell off San Diego, should suit Kanza.

Belles on course

Football: Four-times women's FA Cup winners and premier division champions, Doncaster Belles, stayed on course for the double when they won through to meet Stockport County in the final of the FA Women's Cup on April 25.

Rugby league: Gary Spencer, of Wakefield Trinity, and Steve Snape, of Swinton, will appear before a disciplinary committee on Thursday after brawls disrupted the match between the sides on Sunday.

Five newcomers

Bowls: Five new caps - Ann Hayward, Betty Mackerness, Win Sowerby, Sheila White and Jean Evans - are in the England women's team for the international series at Bournemouth on July.

Argentina's title

Polo: Argentina beat Chile 12-7 in Santiago to win the third world handicap championship, while England defeated the United States 10-9 to take the bronze medal.

Ashley ambition

Boxing: The retirement of Graziano Rocchigiani, the European light-heavyweight champion, has meant Crawford Ashley, of Britain, will meet Fabrice Tiozzo, of France, for the vacant title.

Berlin joins race

Olympic Games: Berlin officially entered the running to host the 2000 Games yesterday, joining Peking, Brasilia, Istanbul, Manchester, Milan, Sydney and Tashkent.

BADMINTON

GLASGOW: Pilkington Glass European championships. First: Stefan Bratolovic (Slovenia) 3-0; 2. Scottie James (Scotland) 3-0; 3. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 4. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 5. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 6. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 7. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 8. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 9. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 10. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 11. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 12. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 13. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 14. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 15. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 16. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 17. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 18. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 19. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 20. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 21. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 22. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 23. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 24. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 25. Alan and E. Allen (Scotland) 3-0; 26. 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Lord's prepares to usher counties into a new era



Dexter: protested

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S, just after breakfast on the last Monday before Easter, was a vision of cricket past and present. The season was starting in the obligatory fashion, on an April morning of numbing winds and with Graham Gooch first into the nets. Some things, it seemed, will never change and yet in this, of all weeks, appearances were deceptive.

The next two days at HQ will produce a vision of the game's future. Within it, there should no longer be a place for the raw ritual of cricket being played in early April, seen in all its cheerless futility yesterday. This, how-

ever, will not be the only liability banished. If the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) working party, which today presents its findings to the first-class counties, is allowed its way, this season will be the last for the game as we know it.

The long traditions of three-day championship cricket, jealously guarded against much reformist zeal in recent years, look likely to fall at last. The influential working party, I understand, will strongly recommend a programme of 17 four-day games as from next year.

Believing, as I do, that quality is suffering at the hands of quantity, Mike

Murray's committee will also suggest the abolition of one limited-overs competition. They do not expect a comfortable ride. The last working party set up to investigate the structure of the English game spent months at work, only to have its report rejected out of hand by counties whose dread of the unknown provoked reactionary extremes. It is only natural, if cynical, to ask why anything should be different this time.

The answers will become evident in the next few weeks. Decisions must be taken at a full meeting of the TCCB on May 19 but canvassing has already been intense and pre-emptive, officers of the board touring the county to brief

each club on the proposed schedules and to discuss all likely objections. Several have already been won over. Hardliners, Essex among them, may never be persuaded but could find themselves outvoted.

The proposals will, anyway, be greeted with relief tomorrow, when the debating at Lord's will be done by the England committee. Ted Dexter, its chairman, has long protested that we play too much of the wrong type of cricket, and he rightly points out that England players would not only have more rest between games under a four-day system, they would also be available for a higher percentage of fixtures.

This spring committee meeting has an extensive agenda, four reports to the fore, but much the most important items are the captaincy and management of the national team. New appointments are imminent in both posts.

Given the position, there was great irony yesterday morning in the familiar sight of Gooch dedicatedly fine-tuning his batting in one net, while the greying eminence, Keith Fletcher, fussed over his younger charges alongside.

Gooch, the England captain, was here with Essex. Fletcher, the Essex coach, was here with the England A team. It may have been a taste of things to come.

Tomorrow, Gooch will be reappointed captain of England for the entire summer. No other decision can, indeed, be contemplated. At the same time, however, Dexter's committee will want to know if he is definitely discounting himself from the winter tour of India, which still seems highly likely.

If so, a successor must be chosen, from a shortlist of Monaghan, Stewart and Atherton, to work with a new manager when Micky Stewart's contract expires in September.

Stewart, it seems, will not serve another term. His replacement will be Fletcher, always providing he is willing to give up his beloved duties

at Essex. If he does, the newly created vacancy is one that Gooch, for whom Essex have always been the first love, would happily claim when his overworked joints finally fail him.

On a three-sweater Monday at Lord's, it seemed nothing ever changes. But in this cricketing year, little may stay the same.

□ Britannic Assurance has agreed a three-year extension of its sponsorship of the county championship with the TCCB. The total package is worth nearly £1.5 million, with this year's champions receiving £46,000.

Bicknell century, page 30
Walsh returns, page 30

Koeman misses chance to halt slump

Barcelona feel pressure as the rumours fly

BY PETER ROBINSON

JUST as the stage was set for a triumphant finale to a memorable season, Barcelona have run into trouble. A place in the European Cup final, once thought a formality, still has to be claimed, hopes of retaining the Spanish championship are wobbling and, perhaps worst of all, whispers are growing that all is not well between the club and its brilliant but controversial coach, Johann Cruyff.

The Dutchman's decision to steer his country through the World Cup finals in 1994 was never likely to please José Luis Núñez, the Barcelona president, but there are signs that a rift is developing between the two. Against a background of rumour and counter-rumour, the team's form has declined and Real Madrid have once again opened a two-point gap at the top of the league.

Although Real could only draw 0-0 with bottom-placed Real Mallorca on Saturday, Barça fared even worse, losing by a single goal in an astonishing game in Valencia. Two players — Ricardo

Arias, of Valencia, and Josep Guardiola, — plus Guus Hiddink, the Valencia manager, and even two stretcher-bearers were "sent off" as Spanish passions boiled over. In all, there were 11 bookings before the referee, in the seventh minute of injury-time, chased Hiddink off the pitch. He did not return, and the mystified teams were left to return to the dressing-rooms.

A ninth-minute penalty miss by Ronald Koeman, normally the most clinical finisher from the spot in Europe, hardly helped Barcelona's mood and when Adolfo Madrid thrashed Cadiz 5-1 24 hours later, with four goals from Manolo, they moved within two points.

It was not exactly the preparation Barça had in mind before tomorrow's European Cup semi-final group game against Benfica in the Nou Camp. A draw will be enough to secure a place in the cup final in London next month, but while Barcelona's form has dipped somewhat, Benfica's has improved and they eased comfortably past

Sporting Braga at the weekend, Cesar Brito and Isaias scoring in their 2-0 win. If Cruyff fails to bring the European Cup to Barcelona for the first time, it is said that Núñez will search for a replacement.

Sampdoria are all but on their way to Wembley already, since the chances of Panathinaikos stealing a victory in Genoa tomorrow are slim, at best, but the Serie A champions have failed to keep pace with AC Milan in the Italian league this season. Indeed, they almost lost at home to AS Roma at the weekend, Silas saving their blushes with a last-minute equaliser in a 1-1 draw. Milan, meanwhile, are coasting to the title, although their 1-1 draw at Cremonese prompted a furious Fabio Capello, their coach, to accuse his players of taking it easy and "narcissism". Things will be different tonight, when they play Juventus in Turin in the second leg of an Italian Cup semi-final: the first leg was goalless.

As ever, it was all change in Europe's most fascinating league, the Bundesliga. Following Borussia Dortmund and Eintracht Frankfurt, VfB Stuttgart took their turn to top the table with their 2-0 defeat of Nuremberg. Matthias Sammer, shortly to join the German exiles at Internazionale, scored both goals in another outstanding display. For those who believe this is a three-horse race, heed the words of Bert Vogts, the German national team's coach. "Bayer Leverkusen has the class to become champions," he said yesterday in the wake of their 3-0 defeat of Kaiserslautern.

Life at the bottom in Germany is rather more fraught. Horst Köppel, the coach of relegation-bound Fortuna Düsseldorf, has sacked half his team in the wake of Friday's 3-1 home defeat by Stuttgart. Kickers complaining: "Our spectators work hard for their money and don't deserve such a performance."

Results, page 31



Cut above the rest: Fred Couples, the Masters golf champion, tries on the green jacket for size, helped by his predecessor, Ian Woosnam, following his final round at Augusta on Sunday. Report, page 30

Bates strikes a deal over Chelsea

BY MATTHEW BOND

KEN Bates, the Chelsea chairman, finally appears to have secured the future of football at Stamford Bridge. But the deal he has in principle agreed with Cabra Estates means the end of football at Craven Cottage, the riverside home of Fulham.

An announcement by

Cabra Estates, the property company that owns Stamford Bridge, yesterday confirmed that significant progress had been made in resolving the bitter dispute between the two sides that dates back over two years. Assuming the deal goes through without further hitch, it will bring to a close Mr Bates's nine-year battle to reunite the ownerships of

Chelsea and the ground they play on.

Under the terms of a deal negotiated on Sunday, Chelsea will assume full responsibility for £13 million of debt presently owed by Cabra to the Royal Bank of Scotland. Responsibility for a further £8.25 million that Cabra would owe to Fulham at the end of this season, if the third

division side were to leave Craven Cottage, will also be taken by Chelsea. However, Fulham is expected to cancel that debt in exchange for a long-term ground-sharing arrangement at Stamford Bridge, perhaps including a percentage of Chelsea's gate money.

The effective result is that for £13 million, Cabra will sell its 83.5 per cent stake in SB Property, the subsidiary that owns Stamford Bridge, to Chelsea. Cabra will then pay £1 for Vicenza, the SB subsidiary that owns Craven Cottage, clearing the way for a residential redevelopment of the ground.

As part of the improved relations between the two sides, Cabra has postponed for a fortnight its legal moves to wind up Chelsea, while Mr Bates has withdrawn his request for an extraordinary general meeting of Cabra at which he was planning to call for the removal of two of Cabra's directors.

Luton's ground may be closed

KENILWORTH Road, the home of Luton Town football club, could be closed today (Louise Taylor writes). The first division club owns an undisclosed sum in police bills and if Bedfordshire County Council advises the county's chief constable to refuse to police Kenilworth Road at a police committee meeting this morning, the ground will be shut.

If police stop manning Kenilworth Road, it would be

in breach of safety regulations to allow supporters entry to games.

David Kohler, the Luton chairman, yesterday acknowledged that the club owes "some money in police bills". He said: "Occasionally some bills take a little longer than others to pay but I have spoken to Bedfordshire county council and they know there is no question of the bills not being paid."

Kohler denied that the sum

involved was £250,000, the amount suggested by a local Conservative councillor, Philip Hendry.

John Silett is to hand over the day-to-day running of Hereford United to Greg Downes, the player-coach, for the rest of the season. Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, has had a £1,500 fine for misconduct cut by a third after convincing the FA that the original punishment was too severe.

Devoey claims eighth title

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

SUSAN Devoey, of New Zealand, reclaimed the Hi-Tec British Open squash racket title at Wembley last night, convincingly defeating Martine Le Moignan, of England, 9-3, 9-5, 9-3 in 35 minutes.

It was her third win over the tall left-hander, from Guernsey, in the British Open final, and her fourth on the European circuit this year. Le Moignan was hopeful after a good losing performance in last month's Guernsey Open, but beyond holding the determined New Zealander to 3-3 in each game, this was another trouncing.

The famed Devoey backhand drop shot was unveiled in the first two rallies and

contributed five more winners in the 15 minute opening game. She hardly cracked at all in the eight-minute second game after apparently damaging a calf muscle at 3-2. Her sound rallying was enough, however, to bring six unforced errors from Le Moignan.

She took the nine-minute third game in just five hands, winning her eighth British Open title with a perfectly judged backhand cross court to the deep right corner, that had her opponent desperately chasing in much the way she has since Devoey appeared on the international scene in 1984.

Only once, in the 1989 World Open final, has Le Moignan broken through

against the best attacking skills and the toughest defensive mentality in the women's game.

It is just possible Devoey will not return for another British Open. She is 28 now and said last night: "Eight seems a good number of wins. It is just twice the number Vicki Cardwell managed and half the Heather McKay score."

RESULTS (Eng unless stated): Men's Semi-finals: Jansher Khan (Pak) vs R. Martin (Aus) 5-0, 5-1, 5-5, 4-9, 5-4; C. Robertson (Aus) vs C. Dittmer (Aus) 4-5, 5-9, 5-2, 5-3; Women: Semi-finals: S. Devoey (NZ) vs C. Jackson (GB) 9-3, 9-1, 9-7; Over-45: S. Moynihan vs L. Cole, 9-5, 9-5, 8-8; Final: Devoey vs Le Moignan 9-3, 9-5, 9-3; Age group final: Martine Le Moignan vs S. Jansher 8-4, 9-3, 10-8; Over-40: Jansher vs A. Sabeti (Egypt) 9-1, 9-7, 9-7; Over-45: S. Sherron vs M. Khalifa, 8-0, 9-5, 9-2; Over-50: M. Khan vs Khalifa, 9-0, 9-0, 9-0; Over-55: L. Kurland vs J. Cole, 7-9, 10-8, 8-8, 8-8; Women: Over-35: D. Davis (Aus) vs R. Anderson (Aus) 2-9, 10-8, 8-4, 8-4; Over-40: Davis vs S. Wainwright, 9-0, 9-8, 8-4.

Bizarre twist to drugs test

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

Sofia: A second drugs test on three Bulgarian women gymnasts who had been found positive last week had to be postponed after the coach of one of them fainted in the laboratory and destroyed a sample, officials said yesterday.

Only two Bulgarian women will now compete in the world championships in Paris this week after the bizarre twist to the testing of the three other team members.

"When we wanted to open the bottles of the second samples in the National Sports Medicine Centre on Friday, Maya Christova's coach, Elena Todorova, fainted and knocked over the doctor who dropped the bottle containing the sample."

Emil Miloshev, the secretary of the Bulgarian drugs-testing commission, said:

"He said the commission would decide today how to deal with the spill sample. The results of the other two will be known today. If the second test confirms the results of the first one, we will ban the gymnasts at once," an official said yesterday.

The Bulgarian team that left here yesterday for the championships, which start tomorrow, now consists of two gymnasts, Silvia Mitova and Snezhana Christakieva. The missing three failed a routine drugs test in Sofia last week when a diuretic, a substance sometimes used for fast weight reduction, was found in their urine. They are Maya Christova.

aged 15, regarded as Bulgaria's best gymnast; Milena Mavrodieva, aged 20 and the 1990 European championship bronze medal winner; and Mirela Peneva, aged 14.

□ Butch Reynolds, the world 400 metre record holder, has been given permission by The Athletics Congress to compete again after he was suspended for using a banned substance in 1990. TAC, the governing body of athletics in the United States, said that Reynolds was eligible to compete until the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) arbitration panel ruled on the suspension, probably next month. Reuter

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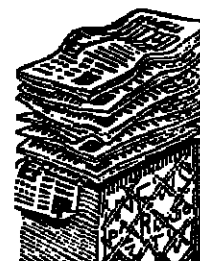
PARENTS

Working at
home: the
rewards and
drawbacks



LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY APRIL 14 1992



MEDIA

After the
election, the
performances
assessed

New face for a desert legend

The story of Lawrence of Arabia has been rewritten for the television screen. Clive Irving considers what it offers a contemporary audience

If there was ever a diplomat's nightmare, this was it. In the middle of the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, memos bounced between four British departments of state, desperately trying to establish on whose authority Colonel T. E. Lawrence was trying to redraw the map of the Middle East. The War Office, the Foreign Office, the Colonial Office and the India Office all tried for months to agree which of them actually employed Lawrence. He claimed to have been demobilised from the army, but the War Office could not establish this. In the end, it was decided that he was under the Foreign Office and attached to the Peace Conference as a "technical adviser".

By then, Major Hubert W. Young of the Foreign Office had divined what Lawrence's game really was. Early in September, he minuted: "Col. Lawrence came in here the other day and remarked ... that he had been working steadily for an impasse for the past year, and that he thought he had succeeded ..."

The settlement of rival claims to hegemony in the Middle East was very much a sideshow to the main business of Paris, the humbling and containment of Germany. But the fall of the Ottoman Empire left the disposition of Western power in the Middle East unresolved, and opened the way to Arab self-determination. Lawrence, with his desert campaign as his overture, seized the moment to press home his own design which, in his words, proposed that "the Arabs should be our first brown dominion, and not our last brown colony".

These months in Paris engaged all Lawrence's conflicts of loyalty, affiliation and allegiance. Yet they have always drawn far less detailed scrutiny than his desert war. In fact, the peace conference provides a stage that reveals on far more intimate terms than the desert saga the stresses of Lawrence's life.

I had been working with David Putnam to find a new way of looking at Lawrence, aware that nearly 30 years after David Lean's *Lawrence of Arabia*, the character was still, for many people, indelibly invested in Peter O'Toole's brilliant impersonation. But we wanted something different.

The more we considered the Paris conference, the more obvious it became that a subtly-layered Lawrence was there, waiting to be found. The picture became even clearer when we combed the contemporary papers from the Public Record Office. Lawrence's real voice leaps off the page — from his own notes, and from verbatim transcripts of committee meetings.

Instead of a broken man, leaving Damascus too spiritually damaged effectively to support Prince Feisal, his Arab comrade-in-arms, we found a Lawrence confident that he could prevail.

The text for our Lawrence, a Lawrence we wanted to carve closer to actual size than in the Lean film, jumped out in a passage from an introduction to the *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*:

"We lived many lives in those whirling campaigns, never sparing ourselves: yet when we achieved and the new world dawned, the old men came out again and took our victory to re-



Mark II hero: Ralph Fiennes

make in the likeness of the former world they knew."

In fact, these words did not appear in the original editions of the book. Lawrence wrote them in the pit of despair at the end of the peace conference, but was then persuaded to suppress them. They convey what was then a brutal geopolitical reality, that a new world order had been decreed which, for the Arabs, was merely the old world order minus the Ottomans.

Lawrence arrived in Paris with only the first whiff of his desert legend preceding him; Lowell Thomas, the American war correspondent responsible for breeding the Lawrence mythology, was then still in New York, putting together a vulgar road show of the desert campaign which never really caught fire until Thomas realised that Lawrence was its charismatic centrepiece, and adapted his script accordingly.

But, even without Thomas's help, Lawrence instinctively sensed he could use his celebrity for political ends. His star quality empowered him in a way that was quite new: burgeoning fame was of greater effect than the meagre official credentials which he enjoyed.

Lawrence made up his tactics at the peace conference in very much the way he had improvised them in the desert, and on the same principle: to deploy the advantages of the smaller force against the weaknesses of the larger, wherever these could be exposed.

There is always a danger when sated with rich documentary sources that what emerges in a script is a faithful, but leaden, docudrama. Putnam was wary of this from the beginning. He wanted to honour the historical context without imprisoning the character in the historical record.

In the hands of Tim Rose Price, the scriptwriter, the core of our story became Lawrence's relationship with Feisal, the 33-year-old Hashemite heir presumptive without a throne of his own. Feisal wanted Damascus. Lawrence, a virulent Francophile, wanted to keep the French out of Syria. The dramatist had to explore: who was leading whom? Had Lawrence "gone native", to a seditious degree?

Major Young, in the early months of 1919, wanted to stop this galvanic pair in their tracks. He scratched out a note: "I consider that further co-operation between these two in Paris is likely



Enigma variations: Peter O'Toole, star of David Lean's film, and his subject, Colonel Lawrence (right), a man of subtle layers who exploited his celebrity to the hilt

to cause us serious embarrassment with the French." This revealed the kind of animus that Lawrence often provoked in serving officers. Young had worked with Lawrence in Arabia, and taken an instant dislike to his "unsoldierly" style.

Robert Vansittart, then a young diplomat, countered Young, saying that it "would be a mistake to keep Lawrence from Feisal". He put the case with naked expediency, talking of Lawrence's "probable utility to us if properly handled" (a rival minute says, obviously from heartfelt experience, "The trouble is that it is always Col. Lawrence who does the handling").

The India Office, which coveted many of the old Ottoman lands, was Lawrence's most openly hostile opponent. Sir Arthur Hirtzel, secretary of the Political Department, sent a choleric reply to Lawrence's "brown dominion" plan: "I mistrust Lawrence profoundly ... Lawrence is a politician, he admittedly knows nor cares anything about administration ... I submit that we cannot for a moment allow Feisal or Lawrence to dictate to us who we shall or shall not employ ..."

In the end, Lord Curzon, speaking from the imperial heights as foreign secretary, lost patience and exploded: "I have no idea of what 'an Arab administration of Mesopotamia' means —

nor has anybody else." Lawrence's duality in Paris, trying to uphold his perception of British interests in Arabia and, at the same time, honour his pledges to Feisal, is nicely shown in his clothing, the British colonel's uniform and the Arab headdress — authentic neither to one calling nor the other, and satisfying neither his generals nor Feisal.

Feisal must have been progressively disaffected by the way Lawrence played to the gallery, using his reputation as the blue-eyed charmer with a mysteriously bloody war record to excite salon society. But Feisal enjoyed the effect of his own appeal, that of the melancholic, mystical Oriental. In truth, he was an astute leader with high ambitions for himself and his family.

Lawrence's narcissism was evident in the way he sat for portraits by virtually anyone who asked (James McBey's, done in Damascus, was the first, and those by Eric Kennington, the most numerous). Any film of Lawrence in Paris had to show this side of his character, but it also had to expose the duplicity of the forces ranged against Lawrence and Feisal.

Paris held more dangers than the desert. There came a time when Lawrence had to be cut down. France could not be denied Syria. Britain's routes to India had to be secured by continued Euro-

pean hegemony over the Arabs. And Gulf oil supplies had to be cheap and safe (the Royal Navy had converted from coal to oil). Against these interests, Lawrence and Feisal had no chance.

Afterwards, in his suppressed introduction to *Seven Pillars*, Lawrence put it with succinct pathos: "Youth could win, but had not learned to keep; and was pitifully weak against age." In 1937, after Lawrence was dead, Young, asked to contribute to a volume of reminiscences about Lawrence, could still not choke back his bile. He wrote, "T. E. possessed all the qualifications for success, including, it must be admitted, the faculty of calculated unscrupulousness ..."

Lawrence has always polarised opinion, as Putnam and I found when we took the project to Jeremy Isaacs, then still the head of Channel Four. Isaacs said he thought Lawrence was an appalling figure and could not see why it was worth our time making a film about him. Once Anglia Television had backed the film, the task of playing the first new screen Lawrence for a generation fell to Ralph Fiennes, the young RSC actor.

Fiennes was no more physically the real Lawrence than Peter O'Toole; he was taller and, like Syria, more gracefully in balance than Lawrence. Lawrence's

physique did not seem equal to the legend: he was barely 5ft 6in tall at full stretch and his body never seemed sufficient foundation for his head. Fiennes managed to internalise his part, catching details like Lawrence's contorted body language and, particularly, his maladroit terror of sexual advances from women.

When I saw his performance, having worked on the project for 11 years, I knew that, at last, we had finally detached Lawrence from Peter O'Toole.

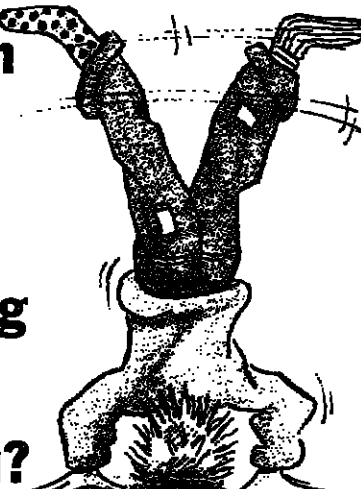
● A Dangerous Man. Lawrence After Arabia will be shown on ITV on Saturday. Clive Irving conceived the project.

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TOMORROW
Rock: fund-raising for Aids

Einstein
could
solve
this
puzzle
standing
on his
head.
Can you?



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TOMORROW
Single line: Lynne Truss

A dead loss at saying those goodbyes

Some week soon, I'm going to brighten up this space with some touches of cheering light, splash some joy around the prison walls. Week after week in this column, you get nothing but moaning and griping about pains and losses, sorrows and confusions. Aren't you sick of it? I don't blame you. Enough of that misery already.

Any day now, I'll be able to rave about the magnolia in bloom in the middle of my lawn. About the same time, we should be licensed to dance around it to celebrate Ipswich Town's elevation to the Premier Division. While we wait, can we have a word about funerals?

I just have to say that I don't think I can take another duff funeral. If I get another fey invitation, twined in violets and lacking a kick-off time, to "a gathering of friends to celebrate the life of ...", I think I may go Roman. If I have to see off another of my old friends to the tunes of Eric Clapton's *All Our Past Times* and a reading of Dylan Thomas's *Do not go gentle into that good*

night, I fear I may run embarrassingly amok, brandishing Kaddish or the Book of Common Prayer and bellowing, "Whatever happened to solemn ritual? Did we mislay it?"

These gatherings are such a strain. As if it's not hard enough to be paying last respects to a beloved friend, sharing grief with the bereaved and looking around to see who might be next, you have to improvise obsequies. You don't know for sure what you should be wearing, where you should be standing and whether it would be taken as a social infelicity to drop a tear or ask to dance with that looker you haven't seen for 15 years.

There is never a coffin in sight and rarely an urn of ashes, so you've got nothing physical to turn to except a bottle and a plate of sandwiches. Without ceremony and the ministers to lead it, the gathering takes no form beyond the inevitable end of maudlin drunkenness and is, thus, indistinguishable from any other midlife knees-up, except that glasses rarely get thrown in temper.

MIDLIFE

Neil Lyndon finds
celebrations 'of the life
of' mainly forgettable

The departed are, on the whole, a dead loss. Most of my friends who have passed on left neither forwarding address nor clear instructions of their last rites, except to say "No prayers, hymns or flowers": which would be fine if we could all have agreed on more fitting substitutes.

The *Big Chill* generation is making as much of a kibosh out of laying its members to rest as they (we) made of weddings twenty years ago and the blessing of babies ten years ago. Somehow, it feels more serious as a deficiency when it comes to funerals; perhaps it's just harder to see the comedy in them. Those who look back to the *Love Story* vows they plighted in beads and velvets in 1970 may console themselves with the giggle that we were all so silly then. That

excuse wears thin in the grave.

Confident that it knew better than its elders, my lot junked all the rituals we had inherited of baptism or circumcision, first communion or bar mitzvah, wedding and funeral (I'm not big on circumcision, myself, but that's not the point). Our swank was that those gathered millennia of refinement did not express our true emotions and we were pleased to tell the priests that they were hypocrites. They must be smiling now that the ends are nigh.

The only truly successful funeral I have attended in the last five years was that of a very young man who took advantage of his months in hospital to devise his ceremony.

We gathered in a crematorium with his coffin dramatically placed, no messing, in the focus of light and attention. His father, opened the service with a full explanation of the ceremony to come.

Afterwards, we all lined up to shake the hands of the family and, astonishingly, to be consoled by his mother. Everybody took their

time, finding full place for their feelings. It's a curious thing to find that a funeral can be a gift from the dead to the living; but that's how it felt and will always, unfortunately, feel.

Most of the gatherings of friends I have attended to celebrate the life of ... have been, blessedly, forgettable. They do not mar the memories of the friends I loved in life; but they do nothing to relieve the solitude which death confirms. The purpose and utility, surely, of obsequies is the sharing of mourning and the celebration of continuing life in those who are left. If you are not allowed a form of mourning, you may not feel released to celebrate. This is, perhaps, not the only big point to have been missed by the *Big Chill* generation, but it seems to me to be among the more grievous. Thomas Cranmer's prayers may be found to have been somewhat hotter on this point than Eric Clapton.

Paris parades its spring collections

John Russell Taylor, impressed by the wealth of painting and sculpture on offer in the French capital this spring, reviews the best of the current Paris exhibitions

What always amazes the visitor from London in Paris is the sheer variety and profusion of art shows on at any given moment, and the irrelevance of most of them to any concept of commercial viability as it would normally be understood by those in charge of London's main public galleries.

Of course, not everything in Paris has trouble finding a large audience. At present the crowds are likely to be thickest at the Grand Palais: outside for The Vikings (drawn no doubt by the lure of so much gold, however unartistically worked) and inside for Toulouse-Lautrec, which is France's first major experiment with timed-entry pre-tickets.

Once inside, there is no doubting the popularity of Lautrec: the show is much more crowded and difficult to negotiate than its comparable predecessor on Seurat, and certainly much more so than it ever was in the Hayward Gallery, which it vacated in January. Also, so far as they can be glimpsed, the pictures look good at the Grand Palais and perhaps more at home there than in the Hayward.

On the other hand, it is hard to imagine in any circumstances that crowds might rush to see such ambitious but relatively obscure shows as Pedro Figari at the Pavillon des Arts or Sima at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris. Even the most cultivated Parisians might well find themselves wondering who the artists could possibly be.

Figari (1861-1938) was in fact the most famous and important of Uruguayan painters, which does not tell Europeans much more. But it evidently should. Figari painted mostly ethnic scenes of Uruguay and southern Brazil with the palette of Vuillard. At first glance these pictures appear to be naive, but the very earliest works, efficiently academic, show that it took him time and trouble to be so simple. The flavour is sweet and sharp, one of the most quirky and attractive shows in town.

Joseph Sima (1891-1971) perhaps suffered from falling between nationalities. He was a Czech who settled in Paris at the age of 30 and subsequently played quite a prominent part in various Surrealist groups, especially that which formed round the avant-garde magazine *Le Grand Jeu*, to which a small annexed exhibition is devoted.

ed. He seems to have regarded it as part of his mission to constitute a cultural bridge between France and Czechoslovakia, and ended up not being quite claimed by either country.

Also, it must be admitted, he is a remarkably difficult artist to pin down: every few years his style changes radically, as he progresses briskly from Realism to Cubism to Purism to Geometrical Abstraction to Surrealism and on. However, each style is developed with panache and originality, and he is certainly an artist worth meeting, if perhaps not quite so extensively as at the MAM.

The opportunity to encounter him seems to be offered primarily because there is some kind of informal Czech season going on in Paris at present. At the MAM there is also a show of contemporary Czech art called Prague-Bratislava, which shows 15 artists of uniform confidence and sophistication, if wildly varied stylistic allegiances. Czechoslovakia since the Velvet Revolution appears, in the arts at least, to have moved back to its natural place in the centre of Europe with a minimum of fuss.

The centrepiece of the Czech season, though, is a splendid, eye-opening show of Cubismes Tchéques at the Pompidou Centre, presented (rather oddly) by the Centre de la Création Industrielle rather than by the Musée National d'Art Moderne. True, it contains some uniquely wild and wayward furniture and ceramics, taking Cubist segmentation to extremes unheard of elsewhere in quasi-industrial design. But the heart of the show is the great range of paintings and sculpture, mostly from the Twenties, which includes not only the more familiar names like Kupka and Gutfreund, but also a number of evidently important artists hitherto hardly known outside their native land.

The most consistently interesting seems to be Bohumil Kubista, who is seen developing from Symbolism and Post-Impressionism to his own idiosyncratic combination of Cubist form and flaring Fauve colouring. But others, like Antonin Procházka and Otakar Kubín, clearly call for more profound exploration.

Meanwhile, upstairs the Musée has commenced what seems likely to be an extended examination of the work of Georges Rouault. This first phase covers the years 1903-



Figures in constant movement: detail of a penitent Magdalen by the 18th-century sculptor Clodion, from an exhibition of his work currently on view at the Louvre

1920 and only right at the end do we encounter the familiar Rouault of the dark and anguished religious pictures, and the strong black outlines inset with jewels of intense colour that make all his paintings look like stained glass.

Earlier on there are some elaborately Symbolist works that make clear his debt to his teacher Gustave Moreau, some large painted ceramics, and some anticipations of his other favourite subject in later life, the circus clown. There are also, surprisingly, many pictures which place the spectator in the position of the Hollywood star who declared that he knew Doris Day before she was a virgin: what is the intense religious painter of the inter-war years doing drawing quite so many brothel scenes and

lounge ladies? The show is fascinating as it demonstrates how the various strands in Rouault's art gradually came together.

Not everything on in Paris is concerned with the early Modern period. The Louvre's principal exhibition is devoted to the 18th-century sculptor Clodion: primarily his terracotta and plaster models, but also a few fine marbles like the full-length seated portrait of Montaigne-Lautrec, should have come anywhere near Britain, or be likely to do so. But it is really disturbing that the great retrospective of Richard Parkes Bonington, now at the Petit Palais after its first showing at Yale, should end its tour without visiting London.

Bonington, after all, though he spent most of his working life in

France, is listed even by the Louvre as "Ecole Anglaise" and the rich background material shown along with his own work is as much English (Turner, Prout) as French (Huet, Delacroix). Nor is there the traditional excuse that Britain has no lever in the way of vital loans for such a show: a high proportion comes from English collections.

Still, it is good that a comprehensive Bonington show has been done at all. He comes over as an artist of astonishing enterprise and originality, achieving an extraordinary development in his 25 years. Even in the artistic relation with Delacroix, with whom he shared a studio, it is far from clear who influenced whom and who thought of what first. They seem to be placed in Romantic painting very

much as Picasso and Braque were at the beginning of Cubism, and jointly and inseparably to have achieved almost as revolutionary results.

●Toulouse-Lautrec and The Vikings are at the Grand Palais (telephone booking for Lautrec 4804 3886) until June 1 and July 12 respectively. ●Pedro Figari is at the Pavillon des Arts (4233 8250) until May 24. ●Sima, Le Grand Jeu and Prague-Bratislava are at the Musée de l'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (4732 6127) until June 21. ●Cubismes Tchéques and Georges Rouault are at the Centre Georges Pompidou (4277 1233) until May 17 and May 4 respectively. ●Clodion is in the Hall Napoléon of the Louvre (4020 8229) until June 29. ●Richard Parkes Bonington is at the Petit Palais (4265 1273) until May 17.

DANCE PREVIEW

Pushing emotions beyond the brink

Allen Robertson talks to the experimental Belgian choreographer whose work opens London's festival of new European dance

The Belgian choreographer Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker is one of those provocative artists who define the cutting edge. And her company, Rosas, is also one of Europe's most successful. Now ensconced in the Théâtre de la Monnaie, the Brussels opera house, that played host to Maurice Béjart and Mark Morris before her, De Keersmaeker is the heir apparent to Germany's Pina Bausch and an influence on dancers around the world. Tonight her company arrives in London to perform *Achterland* as the opening event of this year's "Turning World" festival of European contemporary dance.

At only 32, De Keersmaeker has been at the forefront of experimental European dance for almost a decade. Her work marries the rigour of American minimalism with the emotive European expressionism spawned by Bausch. The result is an exhaustive display of relentless energy that is enhanced by De Keersmaeker's determination that audiences see her dancers from a dramatic point of view.

Her tenth choreographic work, *Achterland*, is a personal view of the "hinterlands of gender relationships" and is performed to the music of

György Ligeti and Eugene Ysaÿe, played live by violinist Irvine Arditti and pianist Rolf Hind. It is dominated by powerful movement patterns that push dancers — and audiences — towards an emotional brink. Yet, in the midst of accumulating violence, De Keersmaeker devises moments of luxuriant calm.

In the 90-minute *Achterland* there are even sections where the movement steps aside for the music. "My basic frame," she says, "is always music. You could call it my inspiration — whatever the word really means."

However one defines it, De Keersmaeker's sources of inspiration are idiosyncratic and deeply personal. "I like to bring out individual qualities. My dances are very much decided by the people who perform them. You make final decisions and choose initial directions, but you don't make dances alone. The dancers all have a very, very important creative role."

She formed Rosas in 1983 and for the first few years the troupe was exclusively female. The decision to use only women came about because she wanted audiences to concentrate on her structural manipulation of movement.

"In the very beginning," she



Provocative success: Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker

explains, "I was working with the minimal, repetitive music of Steve Reich. It was very important, I thought, to work with the same so that every little articulated difference in the movement could be perceived clearly. If you're working with a man and a woman, you start with a difference already, rather than introducing it through the dancing."

Both sexes may appear in *Achterland* but the choreographer has chosen not to have them actually dancing with one another. "The men and the women are quite separate, but I think that brings them closer together. It makes the desire of being close very much

stronger, makes the tension feel very much more loaded and suggestable. I think the unsaid thing — being more present by not being there — is very much more potent."

With the Monnaie residency, she may enjoy the enormous resources of an opera house, but De Keersmaeker is also happy working on a smaller scale. "Larger is not always necessarily better. I don't want to have too large a group. I would rather grow a bit slowly."

●*Achterland* is at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank (071-928 8800) tonight and tomorrow at 7.45pm

RADIO REVIEW

Go with the swing

NO POINT in beating about the bush. At 10 p.m. last Thursday, when my critical ear should have been grafted to a radio, I was watching television. As the election results began to trickle in, it was impossible to resist the spectacle of Peter Snow doing his Peter Snow impression, of Robin Day snorting at jargonising candidates, of reporters at poll counts not being able to hear what David Dimbleby was saying to them, and of the once mighty wearing the rictus grin of plucky defeat. I'm talking about the opinion pollsters, of course.

Anyway, duty done by midnight, and time to go to the best political party in town, which you could attend without ever leaving the comfort of your own duvet. Admission was gained simply by sticking a hearing aid in your ear, tucking the tranny under your pillow and tuning into Radio 4, where Brian Redhead was having the time of his life.

Radio really is the best medium for the coverage of elections. You don't have to applaud the set, decode the graphics or watch endless shots of closed doors behind which some politician may or may not be lurking. All you have to do is close your eyes, lie back and think of England. And Scotland, and Northern Ireland, and the possible swing in Basildon.

Redhead is the perfect host for an election night party — in fact, he's the only political presenter who understands that public perception of the event has more in common with runners in the Grand

National than who will run the nation. His wicked glee, often so self-indulgent and grating in the early mornings, sets exactly the right mood for a programme that comes at the other end of the day and only once every five years or so, and that dedicates itself to the close examination of shattered egos and hollow boasts.

Some say that Redhead was biased during the election and they might be right, in that he seemed happy to voice the prejudice of most ordinary people against most ordinary politicians — if he didn't exactly call a plague on all their houses, he didn't exactly sympathise with their discomfort either. If anything, Redhead handled the election like a gameshow host. As the night wore on and results rolled in, Redhead seemed to be getting so much chirpier I suspect he was being taken outside every hour and hosed down.

By Friday morning you also had the impression that Redhead had barricaded himself in the studio and was refusing to come out until he had spoken to every single person in the world, including a Japanese woman in Tokyo who didn't quite seem to know why she was on the line, and answered Redhead's enquiries about the state of the Yen, the forthcoming Japanese election and the Tokyo government's attitude to John Major with: "I don't know about that". Perhaps she was just cleaning the room when he called, but then at the best parties, everyone is made welcome.

PATRICK STODDART

ARTS BRIEF

Swan's away

HAVING discarded Natalia Makarova's expensive and short-lived production of *Swan Lake*, English National Ballet has now announced that its artistic director, Ivan Nagy, will restage the Tchaikovsky classic for the 1993 spring season. The new version will be based on John Field's 1982 production (designs by Carl Toms) and promises to be a "traditional reworking". According to Nagy, the new *Swan Lake* "will continue our plan of renewing the entire classical repertoire of the company over the next few years".

THE tenor Werner Hollweg has devised a four-night Schubertiade which takes place at the newly restored Blackheath Concert Halls from May 6 to 9.

At pains to recover at least some of the atmosphere of those informal occasions when Schubert and his poet friends would meet to enjoy each other's work, Hollweg intends that music students will be invited to come and sit on the platform while the musicians

perform below them. Letters from, to or about Schubert will be recited in two languages and each of the four evenings will be built around a single theme. The four concerts include contributions from Vokalensemble Zürich and the Endymion Ensemble.

Hall ends well
BARBARA JEFFORD, and not the previously announced Rosemary Harris, will play the countess this summer at Stratford when Peter Hall's production of *All's Well That Ends Well* opens at The Swan. Harris opted out of Shakespeare's play in favour of a West End production of Neil Simon's *Lost in Yonkers*, which she is currently playing on Broadway.

Last chance...
THE English National Opera revival of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* is rooted in commedia dell'arte or, not to put too fine a point on it, slapstick. But there is one performance of humane comic proportions, very much in key with Rossini's score, in Andrew Shore's huffing, snuffing, querulous Barolo. Michael Lewis in the title role is the best of the rest and for the final performance on Thursday at the Coliseum (071-8336 3161) Michael Merry is the conductor.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Force of argument fails to persuade

aspects of the problem last week, in which the voices were allowed to speak for themselves. *World In Action*'s version should have been even more effective, but it lost some of its edge with a voice-over that took a clear (and hostile) position about the police policy.

Not that there is any lack of things to be hostile about. The

infamous case in which the Los Angeles Police Department is being sued for \$56 million after four officers were shown on an amateur video beating up a black motorist stopped for speeding seems to have been merely excessive rather than untypical. The clear impression from this fly-on-the-wall film is that the LAPD, faced with a city in

which 1,000 people are murdered every year, has lost what little chance there may have been of converting the community to its cause.

Consider a small matter. A police helicopter with nothing better to do spots a car being "driven erratically". The chopper plays a searchlight on the car and ground patrols race to the scene. Four men, all black,

are taken out of the car, searched, handcuffed and made to sit on a curb. The police believe the vehicle is stolen, but their computer does not list it as stolen. The police conclude not that the car is owned by the driver, as claimed, but that the theft of the car has yet to be reported.

After an hour of questioning, the men are allowed to go.

A police woman turns to the camera: "We can't show a crime has been committed so we'll let them go for an hour or so until they do commit a crime."

World In Action made a passing reference to improved detection rates since the aggressive policy began and we could have benefited from more about that. On the evidence presented last night, the inference can only be that a police force with a hell of a job is making a rod for its own back.

PETER BARNARD

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Storm clouds over the Black Sea

The second battle of Sevastopol is being fought with words, for the moment, as Russia and Ukraine squabble over the "Soviet" fleet. Michael Evans reports

Hanging in the information office at the Black Sea Fleet headquarters in the Crimean port of Sevastopol is a large map. Anyone looking for an insight into the current military tug-of-war between Russia and Ukraine, the two giants of the former Soviet empire, will find one here. Russian naval officers have pencilled their own imaginary border around Ukraine, leaving out Crimea. This lush former Russian peninsula was handed over as a gift to the Ukrainians by the Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev in 1954, and the present-day Russians want it back.

The Crimea issue is all part of the Black Sea Fleet saga, set in Chekhov country but with a script more suited to a modern blockbuster. This is the story so far: President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine wants to seize control of the former Soviet Union's largest warm water fleet, because its headquarters is in Sevastopol. Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, insists that the fleet is "strategic" and therefore under the control of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Each leader issues decrees wrestling control from the other, followed by an uneasy truce (last week) in which both sides agree to let a commission examine the dispute.

The commission has an unenviable job. For this is not a simple military matter. The rightful ownership of Crimea is one extra ingredient. Add to this the secret plot to sell off unwanted Black Sea naval assets to foreign buyers for desperately needed hard currency, the macho foot-stamping of two presidents who want their own way, the disputed definition of "strategic", and, not least, the future role of the Black Sea Fleet, and you have a military/political mix which could keep the members of the commission fully occupied for months.

The Black Sea Fleet, founded by the Russian czar Peter the Great, is not the most powerful of the four former Soviet fleets. However, with nearly 400 vessels in its inventory, including modern cruisers, there is a sizeable force at stake.

While none of the submarines is nuclear-powered and none of the warships is a dedicated nuclear weapons carrier, many of the vessels are nuclear-capable: in other words, the cruise missiles and torpedoes which they carry can be nuclear-tipped. Herein lies the broad definition of strategic

promoted by Yeltsin and Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, the commander of the CIS armed forces. Under a CIS agreement, all strategic forces are supposed to be under its command.

The Black Sea Fleet also uses a number of different ports, not all of them in Ukraine. There are two ports on the Russian coast, a big commercial one at Novorossiysk and another at Tuapse. There are also three in Georgia, at Poti, Batumi and Ochamchiri.

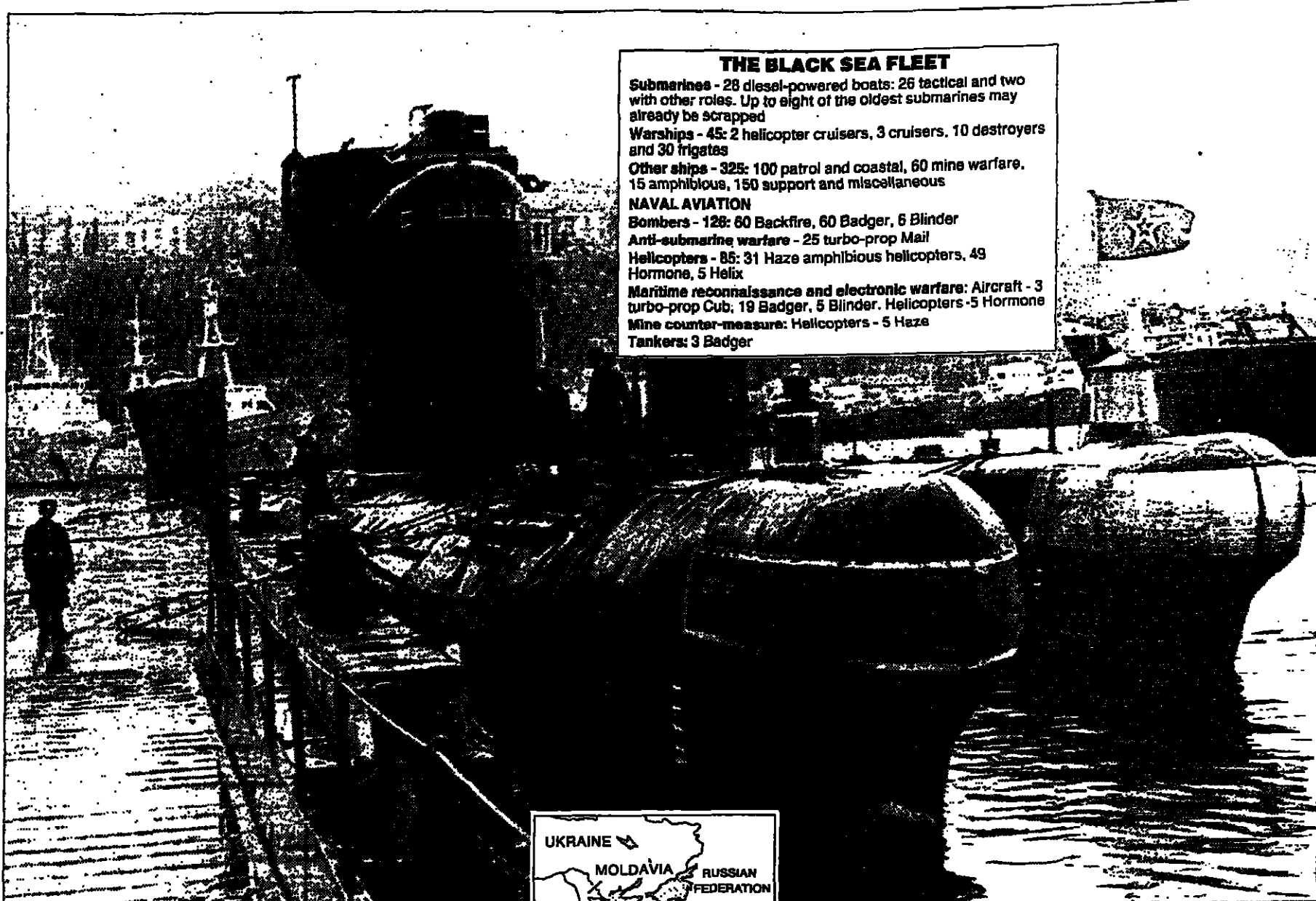
The dispute over control of the Black Sea Fleet, however, has taken on so many different dimensions that the argument over the definition of strategic — which offers at least some room for compromise — has been overwhelmed by the political stand-off between Yeltsin and Kravchuk, and by the manoeuvrings over the future status of the two mighty republics.

Sevastopol, at the heart of the battle, resembles a southern Italian town: faded paintwork on shuttered windows, pleasant squares surrounded by trees and summer breezes wafting in from the Black Sea and across the vineyards outside the city. As a naval base, it is without compare, so you will find few Russian officers eager to swap their comfortable existence for a posting elsewhere. Ukraine is also the richest of the former Soviet republics and supplies are better than in Russia.

Small wonder the ethnic Russians serving in the Black Sea Fleet are undecided about the different orders they receive. Kravchuk wants them to sign an oath of allegiance to the blue and yellow Ukrainian flag. But Admiral Igor Kasatonov, the commander of the Black Sea Fleet, whose father also commanded the fleet, has forbidden them to take the Ukrainian oath.

A sensational story appeared in a Russian armed forces newspaper last month under the headline "Mutiny in the Black Sea". It told of 30 Russian sailors who locked themselves in a submarine lavatory and threatened to kill themselves unless two officers were dismissed for trying to force them to sign oaths of allegiance to Ukraine. The officers were duly sacked.

The incident underlines the emotional as well as military tug-of-war going on behind the scenes. There are 12 million ethnic Russians in Ukraine, and on the



THE BLACK SEA FLEET

Submarines - 28 diesel-powered boats; 26 tactical and two with other roles. Up to eight of the oldest submarines may already be scrapped
Warships - 45: 2 helicopter cruisers, 3 cruisers, 10 destroyers and 30 frigates
Other ships - 325: 100 patrol and coastal, 60 mine warfare, 15 amphibious, 150 support and miscellaneous
NAVAL AVIATION
Bombers - 128: 60 Backfire, 60 Badger, 6 Blinder
Anti-submarine warfare - 25 turbo-prop Mail
Helicopters - 85: 31 Haze amphibious helicopters, 49 Hormone, 5 Helix
Maritime reconnaissance and electronic warfare: Aircraft - 3 turbo-prop Cub, 19 Badger, 5 Blinder. Helicopters - 5 Hormone
Mine counter-measures: Helicopters - 5 Haze
Tankers: 3 Badger

Strategic questions: ownership of the Black Sea Fleet is as

much a matter of dispute as the status of its Crimean base

could take over the bills. But it was a short-term gesture. They are still talking about having an army of 420,000 but nobody believes they can afford it.

Money, and the pursuit of it, is one of the more interesting sidelines in the battle of the Black Sea. Indeed, the discovery that CIS defence chiefs were allegedly planning to sell off some of the Black Sea Fleet's assets for hard currency persuaded Kravchuk to adopt an even more vigorous assault against the Moscow military mafia.

The alleged asset-stripping plan involved the sale of 49 ships, plus a further 13 at a later date. Fifteen submarines written off in 1991 had also been sold to foreign buyers and a 40-year-old cruiser, Zhdanov, was bought by India for £1.2 million. Kravchuk claimed that a joint stock company, owned by the Black Sea Fleet and a Moscow-based front organisation, had been set up to sell off

submarines and ships for profit before Ukraine took control of the fleet.

The original negotiations between Ukraine and Russia over ownership of the fleet involved a fairly unseemly bargaining session. Ukraine said it wanted 80 per cent of the assets, Marshal Shaposhnikov said Ukraine could have seven per cent, "and that's my last offer". The CIS raised this to 20 per cent but this was still unacceptable to Ukraine. The CIS promptly reduced the offer to 10 per cent.

Each side knows that Ukraine does not need a large navy. If money, political rivalry and an obsession with status had not raised their heads, Ukraine could



have taken control of a slimmed-down, effective and "invasion repellent" coastal force, consisting of an appropriate number of destroyers, frigates, coastal combatants, mine-warfare vessels and patrol submarines, leaving the CIS with the cruiser/destroyer force and the more modern submarines to act as an additional counter to the American Sixth Fleet operating in the Mediterranean.

Potentially the most explosive issue is the rightful ownership of the aircraft carriers constructed at the Ukrainian shipyard at Nikolaev. The Kuznetsov, completed at the end of last year, was spirited away to the Northern Fleet's base at Murmansk before Ukraine had a chance to intervene. However, the carrier's sister ship, the Varyag, is currently being fitted out and there is a big question mark over its future. A third carrier, the 75,000-ton Ulyanovsk, whose hull has been partial-

ly finished, is going to be scrapped because of lack of money.

Ukrainian moves to assert control over the whole of the Black Sea Fleet have rekindled Russian claims to the Crimea. The Crimean peninsula, which was annexed from Turkey by the Russian empire, was handed over from Russia to Ukraine in 1954 to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the unification of the two states. Alexander Rutskoi, the Russian vice-president and a staunch patriot, has said that the Russian Congress should look into the legality of Crimea's transfer to Ukraine.

Unless the new commission can find the magic formula for ending the dispute between Ukraine and Russia, Moscow may push its territorial claims on the Crimean peninsula as a means of stopping Kiev from seizing control of the whole fleet. The Russian officers' map in Sevastopol is a warning of possible trouble ahead

The surgical division of Siamese twins presents the hardest of dilemmas for parents and doctors

Three-year-old Catherine Holton died last week after a pioneering operation to give her and her twin sister, Elisha, a chance to live normal lives.

The operation was the most ambitious performed to separate Siamese twins. A member of the medical team at Great Ormond Street Hospital described it as "probably one of the most ambitious operations ever undertaken".

The fact that the price was Catherine's life highlights the moral and ethical dilemmas which face doctors and parents confronted with Siamese twins.

Elisha and Catherine were joined from the shoulders to the pelvis. They had separate heads, hearts, lungs and spinal columns, but shared two arms, two legs, a large bowel and a bladder. Blonde-haired, blue-eyed and "very chatty", they were believed by doctors to have an equal chance of survival.

Catherine's death from heart failure four days after the 15-hour operation was unexpected. The view of Lewis Spitz, the hospital's Nuffield professor of paediatric surgery who headed the surgical team of 25 specialists and specialist nurses, is that Catherine needed Elisha's support to survive. "We can't be 100 per cent sure, but there were no complications from the surgery that we could find," Professor Spitz says.

"We suspect that the one who survived was doing a greater proportion of the work and when separated the one who died couldn't cope on her own. It did seem as though she had pump failure of the heart. So the heart just couldn't manage on its own. And there's no way we could have predicted that beforehand."

Siamese — known medically as conjoined — twins are a rare type of identical twins who occur when there is a late and incomplete split of the fertilised egg. It happens in one in 50,000 to 100,000 births — one in 500 to 1,000 twin births — and in most cases they die at birth. They frequently suffer from major heart malformations, which may also result in death.

Sometimes one of the twins is sacrificed at birth for the sake of the other. In the past, many died simply because, without prenatal diagnosis, it was impossible to deliver them without damaging them. About 40 per cent are stillbirths and another 30 per cent die within a day or two from major

Double jeopardy in the cause of separate lives



Stepping out: Violet and Daisy Hinton, Siamese twins photographed in New York in 1934

congenital abnormalities.

Professor Spitz has been involved with five previous sets of Siamese twins. Two had conjoined hearts and died shortly after birth, and two were successfully separated and are leading normal lives. The fifth set, Holly and Carly Rich, were separated when they were two days old. Carly died from a congenital heart problem, but Holly is seven and living in Texas.

Ever since medical science made the separation of conjoined twins a possibility, there have been concerns about the ethics involved. The fact that Siamese twins have, in the past, been used as exhibits in funfairs and peep shows has fuelled fears of exploitation.

An extreme example was the 19th century French doctor, Doyen, who agreed to carry out the separation of Indian twins Radica

and Daddica Orissa in the Cirque de Paris as the drum-rolling climax to a charity circus show gala evening aimed at raising funds for the separated twins. The girls died as the cameras flashed and Dr Doyen prepared to make his first incision.

Professor Spitz has no doubts that operating on the Holton twins was the right decision. "It needed to be done in order to give them a chance to have a normal existence. To live together joined, in the 20th century, I don't think is really ideal. They'd be curiosities."

"We did it knowing that there were going to be risks but hoping to get two survivors. We wouldn't have started if we'd known we were going to sacrifice one. The parents wouldn't have allowed us to start anyway. There was never any question of who would be

sacrificed in favour of the other one."

He estimated the chances of success as "33 per cent that we'd lose one, 33 per cent that both would survive and 33 per cent that both would succumb."

"I think the crucial thing was very, very careful planning, very accurate pre-operative investigations to know exactly what was shared between them and exactly what the plan of the operation was going to be. And this was all done very carefully over two and a half months so that when we came to doing the operation we knew what we were going to encounter."

Normally, separation is attempted between the ages of four months and 12 months "because some need lots of preparation before you can do it". Professor Spitz was first asked for an opinion

on Catherine and Elisha in 1991. Their parents, Mary and Liam Holton, from County Kildare, understandably took a year to decide.

"When you live with the twins you appreciate how utterly unique they are and, in a sense, you feel honoured to be their parents," Mrs Holton told a reporter when her daughters were one year old. "We feel we were blessed in some way."

Professor Spitz agrees that there is an ethical dilemma when it comes to attempting to separate Siamese twins. "But I think that if there is a chance that they can be separated then that chance should be taken. You have to tell the parents. We will do our utmost to have both surviving, but the risks are 30 per cent — or whatever it is."

The twin specialist Dr Elizabeth Bryan has no doubts about the justification for attempting to separate Siamese twins. "You could argue that one of the big ethical things is the attitude of society to conjoined twins. If society were more accepting of disability and so-called freaks, then it might be much easier for them to live in it."

A paediatrician and founder of the Multiple Births Foundation, Dr Bryan says that separation has been attempted "on many occasions knowing that one child would be lost. Sometimes, if there is only one heart, you know that you can produce only one child."

Mary Lowe, chairman of the Twins and Multiple Births Association (TAMBA) and the mother of identical twin daughters, says: "From a parent's point of view I would prefer them to be separated if it is at all possible, even at the risk of one not surviving."

The original "Siamese" twins, Chang and Eng, who were born in 1811, married English sisters and had 22 children between them. Their wives lived in separate houses and the twins spent alternate weeks with each of them. As is often the case with Siamese twins, their personalities were entirely different. While Chang loved to drink, Eng abhorred drunkenness. On one occasion, Chang, who became violent when drunk, escaped prison only because a judge felt it would be unfair to imprison Eng as well.

SALLY BROMPTON

© TAMBA, 59 Sunnyside, Worsnop, Nottinghamshire S81 7LN (0909 479250)

Sheriffs honour 1,000 years

Men of law and order have replaced the evil adversary Robin Hood knew

The age has long gone since they read the Riot Act, sent out posses and presided over public hangings — and Robin Hood's fabled adversary from Nottingham is probably the only one to have staked a claim to dubious historical immortality.

But the high sheriffs of England and Wales have at least retained sufficient power to survive uninterrupted from the reign of Alfred the Great to the present day, and on May 1 holders of the office from all 54 counties gather in York Minster to celebrate the start of their millennium year.

"They have probably existed for longer than 1,000 years," Richard Bullock, secretary of the Shrievalty Association, says, "but we fixed on 1992 because the fear was that different high sheriffs would pick on their own year of office for the millennium, and the celebrations would pop up in dribs and drabs."

The sheriffs now look forward to a year in which the York Minster service, attended by the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice and the Duke of York, will be followed by a Guildhall banquet, the planting of 1,000 oak trees in Windsor Great Park and a November ceremony at Winchester. England's capital when they started out in business. As the Merry Men were reputed to have marauded in Sherwood Forest in the reign of Richard I (1189-99), and the city of Nottingham did not get a sheriff of its own until 1449, the only certainty behind the legend is that Robin Hood's evil adversary would have been High Sheriff of the county of Nottinghamshire. Almost eight centuries later, his office has passed on to Ian Philipps, aged 67, a former chairman of Raleigh Industries and treasurer of the Quorn hunt since 1978.

"Back in Saxon times, the high sheriff was the most important and powerful figure in his region," Mr Philipps says, a touch ruefully. "He represented the crown in his bailiwick and was responsible for all royal property, law and order, the collecting of royal rents and raising an army."

"He would raise 'the hue and cry', officially the 'posse comitatus' or full power of the county, to pursue outlaws, act as judge, alongside the bishop, and was responsible for seeing that sentences were carried out — thus spending a lot of time hanging people."

"Then Henry I introduced travelling judges to try important cases." Henry II appointed JPs to hear minor ones, the Tudors introduced lords lieutenant to look after army-raising and, in the last century, the commissioners of police and income tax took over policing and revenue-collecting.

Despite the erosion of their duties, the office is still regarded as a great honour. Candidates must be independently recommended to the Queen.

Many high sheriffs still take their law and order roles seriously. Mr Philipps, for instance, has dedicated his year in office to tackling the growth in crime committed by young people. If sheriffs still have a role to play, why then do they only have a single year in which to play it? "Kings such as Richard the Lionheart were more interested in the Crusades and gave their sheriffs a lone hand to get on with collecting receipts," Mr Philipps says.

"This led to corruption, and it was thus decreed that sheriffs should be changed annually — so that no one got too good at it before they were replaced."

WILLIAM GRAVES



The law: Ian Philipps

Sea

How I spent my life

Why bother keeping a family diary when cheque stubs tell the story?

January and February must be the best documented months, thanks to the diary. Fewer moments are immortalised during March. And by mid-April, I reckon, most diaries stretch forward in virgin blankness, apart from the birthdays and anniversaries, dutifully filled in when you made the new year's resolution to keep it up.

Like many others, I have always wanted to have a year of my life penned for posterity, to be unearthed among my effects, hailed as a latter-day Pepys, and published to public acclaim. Sadly, like everyone else, I only ever make it to mid-March.

Curiously, the urge for autobiography is strongest when there is least happening in one's life. Defoe's *Journal of the Plague Year* is necessarily a work of fiction. Which person fully occupied with boiling coynage, bringing out their dead, and inspecting their armipits for tell-tale lumps would have had the time to jot down the minutiae of family life? The nearest I got to completing the unpurged events of my life was during half a decade of incarceration at boarding school.

The life of a parent, however, can be chronicled in less obvious ways than the time-honoured Dear Diary method. Sorting through my domestic paperwork the other day, I discovered that I do

'If I sent the carrier bag full of cheque stubs to a publisher, I fear I would not get a Pepys out of them'

have a detailed record of my family life. An uninterrupted record over the last quarter of a century, written in tiny, confidential volumes — the stubs of my cheque book. Revealed on the small pink pages is a full history of how I have spent my money and my life. The great changes that parenthood brings are all there, writ large, or rather, writ small.

Before having children, the cheque stubs reveal a life of abundance and self-gratification: "deposit for Spanish villa with friends"; "two pairs of platform shoes"; regular hairdressers' appointments; membership of a lunch club; exorbitant bills for forgotten evenings in wine bars.

Then the children arrived, and the stubs began to tell another tale: "dropside car"; "swivel wheel lie-back buggy"; "gross of first-size nappies"; vests; Babygros; cartloads of bottled baby dinners. Few of the cheques were expended on personal items. "Osteopath's fees" (back injury sustained humping round buggy, baby and accoutrements); repair of washing machine; new parts for washing machine; new washing machine.

As the children grow and the volumes of stubs swell, new chapters of family life unfold. "Shoes for son, boots for daughter, capitation for Cubs, trampoline lessons, dental work, Nintendo games, school trip to Science Museum."

I can follow the changing seasons through these perforated pages: wellingtons and duffle coats give way to sandals, swimsuits and arm bands. Birthday party for 12, at leisure pool and more computer games, larger size leotard for ballet, and yet larger sized Reeboks, document the children's growing needs and ever more expensive lifestyle.

I have the diary I have always wanted, but whether the world wants to share it, I have my doubts. I cannot envisage anyone queuing up for the paperback rights to an Adrian Mole update, *Diary of a Mother, aged 42 and three quarters*. If I sent the carrier bag full of curling cheque stubs to a publisher, I fear I would not get a Pepys out of them. Anyhow the journal continues, as does the cost.

And so to bank.

Davina Lloyd

The author is the editor of Parenting Plus Magazine



Like father, like son: Jonathan Wallace and four-year-old Alexander. "It's still mildly eccentric for a man to be looking after a toddler and running a business — you can get away with it."

Jonathan Wallace, the director of a property management company who has worked from home since his two children were babies, will never forget holding a struggling toddler in one arm, answering the phone with the other and simultaneously dealing with a new client on the other side of his office desk. "I kept a strange sort of smile on my face as though to say, 'It's no problem — I can do it all'. But inside I was sweating."

Such scenes strike chords with many a parent working from home. Most home-workers remain on the domestic front because they want to be close to their offspring, but when work deadlines vie for attention with bruised knees or bored children, hard decisions must be made which would not apply to parents in a nine to five job.

The spectacle of a man juggling children and typewriters goes down slightly better with employers than might a woman in the same position. "It's still mildly eccentric for a man to be looking after a toddler and running a business: you can get away with it because society thinks it's unusual," says Mr Wallace, whose daughter Eleanor, now 12, used to sleep in her cradle on his desk. (Her four-year-old brother Alexander divides his time between the office, a part-time

mother's help, playgroup and grandparents.)

Outsiders sometimes have difficulty in understanding the rules of in-house working. Mr Wallace recalls an unscheduled visit from the health visitor which coincided with a deadline: "I assumed she wanted to see Alexander, who was at his grandparents' — that made me feel like a bad father who'd shunted his kids out so he could work. It was only after I'd ushered her into the sitting room and away from my office (which is built on to the house) that I discovered she really wanted me to handle some business of hers. And all the time, I could hear the office phones ringing while my deadline was ticking by."

Neighbours are similarly oblivious to tight work schedules. "They don't always realise that each day must be a working day. If they pop in to use the photocopier, they stand and natter after paying. I put on a glazed look but it doesn't always work." Housework is another intrusion, and Mr Wallace has to stop himself from interrupting work to bring wash-

Work is child's play

Working from your home has drawbacks and also rewards. Jane Bidder reports

ing in from the rain.

When it comes to any conflict between career and children, Mr Wallace likes to think the children come first. He has never had to abandon a telephone call mid-stream to save a child (his office furniture has child-proof rounded edges), although he has rung back customers when potty-training Alexander. His golden rule is never to apologise for audible domestic mayhem, but simply to say he will have to call back.

Boundaries between public and private life are flexible for the Wallaces (Jonathan Wallace is a public relations consultant): "I stop work at tea time when Eleanor comes home, and from then onwards the office door linking to the home remains open," Mr Wallace says. "If neither my wife nor I are on the phone, Eleanor and Alexander often amble in." However, the

answering machine is no longer plugged in after tea ("the recession means everyone has to be more available").

Burning the midnight oil also goes with the job. "We often work after Alexander has gone to bed, which Eleanor doesn't like much. Yes, I do feel bad about that, just as I do if we have to cancel a family outing because of work pressure. On the other hand, there are week days when we can all go out while other parents are stuck in their offices."

Teaching the children to handle clients tactfully is important. "Cute" toddlers who answer the phone are a killer for professional credibility. (The Wallaces have a separate business line so offspring do not intrude.) Even older children can let you down, according to Mary Nickolls, from Aylesbury, in Buckinghamshire, who runs a desktop publishing service from her open-plan sitting room. "My

eldest daughter Jo (then 16) didn't realise there was a client in the house. When I politely called out for a cup of coffee, she retorted, 'Make it yourself!'."

Nevertheless, Mrs Nickolls suffers from every home-worker's fear that an employer might question her professionalism if there are children in earshot, cooking smells ("especially kippers") if a contact calls in, or *Neighbours* in the background during phone calls.

Malcolm Nickolls, an architect who works locally, occasionally feels frustrated when he and his wife need the laser printer or computer at the same time. Mr Nickolls views his wife's work seriously — unlike certain friends or neighbours who take the "You're working from home so you're not really working" tack.

"They're a bit confused when I stagger out of the car laden with work one day, or Tesco shopping bags the next," Mrs Nickolls says.

Adapting to small children's needs can provide unlikely inspiration, as painter Charles MacCarthy, of Herefordshire, has discovered. Mr MacCarthy has

worked from home since his children Beatrice, aged seven, and Daniel, aged five, were small, while his wife Catherine has an outside job with the National Trust. "I used to be more of a landscape painter, but being at home has encouraged me to paint the domestic interior. I've also used the routine to paint the children, and I've switched to watercolours because it's more rapid."

Working flat out is crucial for any home-worker, and Mr MacCarthy is now proud of leaving breakfast dishes unwashed until he has stopped work at 3.14 pm (one minute before pick-up time from school next door). "It shows I work hard."

Mr MacCarthy does feel "pangs of resentment" on the one day a week that his wife works from home. "I have to put down my tools to pick up the children rather than Catherine, because hers is a salaried job. When the children were younger, we did consider getting an *au pair* so I could work more, but I'm glad I stuck it out. It demonstrates a kind of equality. I'd like to think the children see this, too: they certainly respect my work and were trained, even when very little, never to wander into my studio or dabble with paints without permission."

Picking a top read

Children can miss out on good stories if parents stick to classics — and awards highlight fresh talent

Sales of children's books reached £150 million in 1990 and 5,000 new titles appear each year. Children borrowed 93 million books from libraries last year, compared to 75 million a decade ago. So why do so many parents choose a book for a child plump for something first read by gaslight in an Edwardian nursery?

Classics should be rediscovered by every generation but parents who see no further than Pooh or Peter Pan are doing their children a disservice, according to Christina Sharman of the Youth Libraries Group. She thinks parents are daunted by the choice. "It is like going into a sweet shop and seeing this amazing array and thinking, 'Where do I start?'"

Parents then stick to old familiar things that may not have stood the test of time. Miss Sharman is the coordinator of the Library Association's Carnegie and Greenaway medals. Last week she and a panel of ten other children's librarians produced the shortlist from which the winners will be chosen in June. As I watched the judges distil 53 nominations down to seven writers and seven illustrators, they gave some neat pointers for parents.

Candidates for the Carnegie medal for an "outstanding" work are judged on characterisation, style and plot. "All the books that have got this far are good," says Grace Kempster, the panel's chairwoman. "The book has to be more than just a good,

pleasurable read. It must satisfy the imagination at some deeper level."

The panel starts by briefly discussing each book nominated by children's libraries or individual members of the Library Association and putting them into the Yes, No or Maybe pile. Criticisms

would like, to see it through their eyes. That is often why things such as Winnie the Pooh have been so successful for so long. They work on different levels."

Some of the books arousing strongest support also arouse the strongest antipathy. *The Real Tilly Beany*, for instance, provokes fierce debate. "Full of life," says one judge, "dreadful character, unbearably precocious," claims another.

Yaxley's Cat splits the panel into those who can believe the inhabitants of north Norfolk capable of monstrous evil and those who cannot.

During the afternoon session to decide the Greenaway award for "distinguished" illustration, the biggest division centres on Jane Ray's drawings for *The Story of Christmas*: half the panel thought they were too sumptuous, others argued that they continue a tradition that can be traced back to the Middle Ages.

The awards shortlist can be a useful guide to the best contemporary writing. But Miss Sharman says: "There aren't really any short cuts. Parents should be prepared to read themselves from a wide selection."

"The best approach is a triangle involving parent, child and librarian because you need to know a bit about the child, what his or her interests are and what they have enjoyed before so you can match the right book to the right child."

LIZ GILL

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CARNEGIE MEDAL SHORTLIST

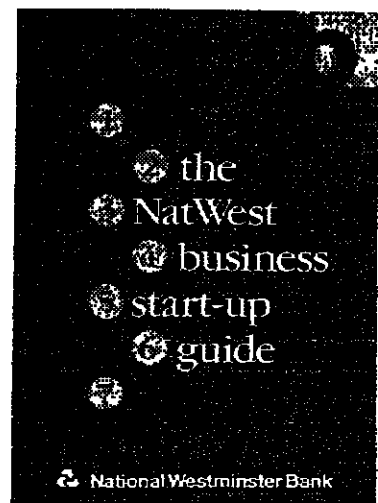
Annie Dalton: *The Real Tilly Beany* (Methuen £7.99), age range 6-8 for reading aloud, 8-10 for own reading; Bertie Doherty: *Dear Nobody* (Hamish Hamilton £8.99), 13 plus; Victor Kelder: *Dei-Del* (Julia MacRae £8.99), 13 plus; Gary Kitchner: *The Drowners* (Methuen £8.99), 11 plus; Leon Rosselson: *Rosa's Singing Grandfather* (Viking £4.50), 7-9; Robert Westall: *Yaxley's Cat* (Macmillan £8.50), 10 plus; Jacqueline Wilson: *The Story of Tracy Beaker* (Doubleday £7.99), 9-12.

KATE GREENAWAY SHORTLIST

Janet and Allan Ahlberg: *The Jolly Christmas Pastman* (Heinemann £9.99), age 4 plus; Jeannie Baker: *Wintdown* (Puffin MacRae £8.99), 9 plus; Caroline Birch: *Amazing Grace* (Frances Lincoln £7.95), 4 plus; Fiona French: *Anancy and Mr Dym-Bone* (Frances Lincoln £7.95), 6 plus; P.J. Lynch: *East o' the Sun and West o' the Moon* (Walker Books £9.99), 10 plus; Helen Oxenbury: *Farmer Duck* (Walker Books £8.99), 2 plus; Jane Ray: *The Story of Christmas* (Orchard Books £8.99), 4 plus.

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UPDATE

Dream horrors

IF Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager, is suffering nightmares after his triple-bypass heart operation, he is in good company. A study in Australia has shown that nightmares are much common in patients recovering from heart surgery than in other types of operation. Dr Joe Brimacombe, registrar of Royal Perth Hospital, has reported that 28 per cent of heart patients suffered nightmares, and only 13 per cent of other surgical patients did. Powerful drugs or simply personality types might be the cause, he speculated.

Tubes unblocked

WOMEN with blocked fallopian tubes can be enabled to become pregnant by a simple procedure which avoids costly surgery or in vitro fertilisation, according to Dr Amy Thurmond of Oregon Health Sciences Centre. The process, called salpingography, involves introducing a special

catheter through the cervix and into each fallopian tube, guided by X-rays. A guide-wire is then passed through the catheter to stretch the tube open. Of 20 women treated, 19 had their tubes successfully unblocked, and 60 per cent became pregnant within a year.

Rolling sheep

RITCHIEY TAGG of Masham, North Yorkshire, a company specialising in agricultural equipment, has patented a device for stopping pregnant ewes rolling over on their backs. Every year thousands of ewes die when they roll over and their heavy fleece prevents them righting themselves. The anti-roll harness consists of two large cups attached to a belt and fitted around the ewe's body.

War on parasite

Within the next few years the parasitic disease dracunculiasis, or guinea-worm disease, should be eradicated, the World Health Organisation in Geneva believes. Today some three million people a year contract the disease, against up to 10 million in the 1980s.

The Times, in association with Dillons and Pan Macmillan, is sponsoring a debate, chaired by Mervyn Bragg, on the motion "The Hearerless Truths of Science Strip Man of His Spiritual Dignity". For tickets please fill in the coupon below.

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Nigel Hawkes

previews a new
exhibition on every
child's favourite
ancient creature

For a species extinct for 65 million years, the dinosaur has an ability any present-day animal would envy for keeping itself in the headlines. Over the past decade, there has been something of a revolution in the knowledge of dinosaurs.

We now know that some dinosaurs, far from being cold-blooded half-wits clumsily plodding their way towards extinction, were as swift as racehorses, that others nurtured and raised their young as model parents and that none, probably, were cold-blooded at all.

True, they produced no Einstein, but they survived for 140 million years as the most successful vertebrates that ever lived. From tomorrow, the Natural History Museum opens a new gallery that does justice to the new knowledge, as well as containing a chillingly realistic tableau of robotic dinosaurs grunting and slurring as they disembowel a larger member of their species, still twitching in its death throes.

The new gallery is very different from the last attempt the museum made to explain the dinosaur, in 1979. That display was criticised as over-academic and based on questionable science. There was a controversy in the pages of *Nature* over the concepts of cladistics, the science of classifying living things into groups, which infected the display.

The new gallery is more David Attenborough than Carolus Linnaeus. It shows the dinosaurs as living, breathing creatures of enormous variety and inexhaustible fascination. Stephen Jay Gould has offered a succinct explanation for the appeal of the dinosaur to succeeding generations: "big, fierce and extinct". The museum plays on all these themes.

Dr Angela Milner, the museum expert who provided the scientific advice for the new display, says she believes that it offers the best of all worlds, showing the traditional reconstructed skeletons of the monsters and at the same time reminding people that they were once living animals of flesh and blood.

"You would be amazed at public misconceptions," she says. "People have seen the skeletons so often they think the dinosaurs walked around



How dinosaurs defended themselves: a painting by John Sibbick shows herds of Centrosaurus forming a defensive circle when attacked

like that. They also think that all extinct creatures are dinosaurs, which is far from being true."

The exhibition has been designed by Imagination Design and Communication, who have created a raised steel walkway running through Waterhouse's terra-cotta gallery. From the walkway the visitor passes a series of dinosaur reconstructions, including the finest discovery in Britain this century, *Baryonyx walkeri*, found in a Dorset clay pit in 1983. Affectionately known as "Claws", this creature lived in low-lying flood plains and used its huge claws for fishing and scavenging.

Dinosaurs have been found everywhere in the world. Dr Milner explains, even in Antarctica, but the best places for discovering their remains are the badlands of Montana and the windswept reaches of the Gobi Desert, where the fossils are more likely to be exposed. Beneath our feet in the English clay there lie thousands more concealed.

Among the nastiest dinosaurs on show is a creature no taller than a man but capable of a good turn of speed. The *Dromaeosaurus* ran in packs, using large switchblade claws

on their hind-feet to slash at slower-moving herbivorous dinosaurs and drag them down.

At the end of the walkway can be heard the awful grunts of *Deinonychus*, another lightly-built dinosaur armed with a terrible claw. A robotic and appallingly lifelike group of three of these creatures is

Three effects might
have conspired
together to bring
the creatures' long
reign to an end

tearing the flesh from a much bigger *Tenontosaurus*, which lies on the ground twitching.

"The grunts were based on the kind of sounds modern-day reptiles make, pitched correctly for the size of the animal," Dr Milner says. The result is certainly an arresting sight, with the computer-controlled models programmed to give a considerable variation of movement. Back at

ground level there are a series of displays covering the way the dinosaurs lived and died. Here the visitor can feel the edge on *Tyrannosaurus* tooth, and listen to the horn-like sound made by the *Parasaurolophus* blowing air through channels in its crested skull as a warning or a herding signal.

Recent discoveries of how dinosaurs nested provide the basis for another section, while the eternal argument about what finished them off is explored, again using the most up-to-date information.

At least 100 explanations, many wild and whacky, have been provided to explain the dinosaurs' unhappy demise. The gallery illustrates a few of these with cartoons by Bill Tidy. Did the dinosaurs die of boredom, stumble to their doom when they went blind, suffer from fatal skin complaints, or even join in a terrifying mass suicide?

Dinosaur extinction has long provided an avenue for unconstrained speculation. Dr Milner refuses to commit herself to a single theory, believing that three different effects might all have conspired together to bring the dinosaurs' long reign to an end. The first, she says, is climatic

change brought about by the break-up of the ancient continents and the creation of new ocean currents. The whole climate became much wetter and the vegetation changed, leaving the dinosaurs unable to adjust.

Once the herbivorous dinosaurs began to die off, the flesh-eaters were also doomed by the lack of anything nourishing on legs.

The second, and now most fashionable thesis, is that the earth was struck by a meteorite that landed on the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. This had catastrophic effects on the climate, blanketing the Sun with thick clouds of dust and debris. The third is that huge volcanic eruptions, like Mount Pinatubo but hundreds of times greater and more prolonged, had similar and equally disastrous climatic effects.

All these theories are explored in the exhibition, and Dr Milner suspects that each may have played its part in the decline and fall of the dinosaurs. She says: "There is good, hard evidence for all of them."

Exhibition opens tomorrow: Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 0BD. 10am-6pm, Sun 11-6am; adults £4, children £2.

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Now that the dust is settling on all the controversy over the 'media election', the BBC and ITN assess their performances



Another sound-bite opportunity: Neil Kinnock on the British Forces Broadcasting Service after appearing earlier on Walden

THE BBC: 'ACCURATE AND CONCISE'

Viewers 'not bored'

Myths gather around election campaigns. Viewers and listeners apparently become bored; broadcasters become easy targets for manipulation; we are biased; we don't cover issues; we concentrate on the leaders; we're seduced by photo-opportunities; and we the broadcasters are accountable to nobody, out of touch with our audience. Fiction and fact need untangling, and that requires careful research.

This election we have applied a lesson from the coverage of the Gulf War. In that campaign, we helped a university to examine the broadcasters' coverage of the event, including our own, wars and all. They provided an objective critique of news on television, and we valued it. We wanted to listen to our audience and learn from them.

The BBC has commissioned independent research from both Leeds University and Audience Selection Limited to help us judge whether the licence-payers, to whom we are responsible, feel our coverage has achieved the values they expect of us. They have looked at the content and the audience's response to it. We have their preliminary findings, covering all but the final few days of the campaign, and this has helped form our own assessment.

The first conclusion — from the work done by Audience Selection — is that most viewers feel that the broadcasters should analyse and explain news stories during an election campaign, and not just report events. More than half the people questioned thought this important. It is welcome confirmation of all the work we have put into explaining the issues in a clear and impartial way across a wide range of programmes on television and radio. The election briefs on the *Nine O'Clock News* were a prime example of this objective.

Audience Selection also looked at the perceptions of the main television news bulletins at nine

o'clock on the BBC and at 10 on ITV. The *Nine O'Clock News* beats ITN by more than two to one for being more accurate, professional and concise. It is also regarded as being clearer, more up-to-the-minute and balanced.

This positive image of the BBC news was not only held by people who think that the *Nine O'Clock News* is best overall, a substantial number of those who think *News at Ten* is better endorse the BBC news for its accuracy, professionalism and conciseness.

When asked which of the programmes provide the best coverage, the BBC wins by two to one. To my mind this demonstrates we have been providing the service most viewers appreciate, and in the end it is to them we are accountable.

One of the real myths of an election campaign is that although viewers and listeners may appreciate what the broadcasters do, they are really rather bored by it all. The research is much less supportive of this conclusion than chance conversations in pubs and offices might suggest. By the third week of the campaign, for example, 56 per cent of viewers felt there was too much coverage on the BBC, which is about nine points less than at the same time during the 1987 campaign.

The audience figures for the main television programmes have hardly moved during the campaign — still well ahead of ITN at one o'clock and six, and level pegging at nine, according to the figures available so far. And the first signs are that the audiences for radio news and current affairs programmes have increased.

Maybe what many viewers and listeners say and what they actually do are different things.

A prime tenet of our journalism is that we should be fair to all parties and arguments, for the good of all. How did our audience think we had behaved? Nearly 70 per cent thought we had been fair on television, with 13 per cent saying they did not know. The

remainder, who thought we had been unfair, were evenly split between supporters of each party. BBC Radio 4 was also trusted by its listeners: 80 per cent believed its coverage had been fair, with only 6 per cent thinking it unfair. Another test of our beliefs in evenhandedness came from the independent work done by Leeds University. They examined what

Research for the BBC does not back the views of the pub experts

the politicians were doing when they appeared on screen: were they attacking the other party or defending their position? On the *Nine O'Clock News*, the Conservatives spent 43 per cent of their appearances attacking Labour, and 26 per cent of their time defending themselves. Labour spent 42 per cent of their appearances attacking the Tories, and 24 per cent of their time on screen defending themselves. Broadly speaking, the rest of the time for each party was spent stating their position.

The researchers also looked at the running order for the *Nine O'Clock News*, seeing which party had appeared first. The scales tipped slightly in favour of the Conservatives, who led the programme ten times compared to Labour's seven in the most up-to-date figures we have.

Before the campaign began, we decided to ensure that the broadest possible range of issues were brought before the licence-payers. We would not concentrate only on those matters that tend to dominate the news agenda, but also on those that the party might seek to avoid. That was why, for example,

Campaign Report on Radio 4 Long Wave spent so much time bringing in news items from across the United Kingdom, providing a multiplicity of voices and views on a broad range of issues, from transport and sport to the elderly and the unemployed.

Other programmes, such as *The World at One*, or *Newsnight*, found innovative ways of fulfilling the same aim. We've reported on such subjects as the battle for the C2 voters, the politicians in each party who expressed divergent views, the state of the trade unions, the aspirations of the ethnic minorities and so on.

According to the research, this distinctive characteristic of the BBC's approach to the election campaign has been appreciated. Have we been seduced by photo-opportunities? We have no independent work on this, and it would repay analysis. My own view is that there is a real paradox here.

This election has been remarkable for the way in which the changes in tactics of the parties have been reported upon and debated often before those changes occurred. It is surprising, then, that the walkabouts have been so enduring a method of campaigning, given that the huddles of cameramen and journalists appear to cocoon a party leader from contact with the life of the shopping mall. Yet it was also one of these sessions that prompted John Major to use the most successful symbol of the campaign, his soapbox. It appeared as genuine, hard engagement with the voters, the antithesis of the photo-opportunity.

There is still much work to do to separate myth from fact during the election campaign. But one point is clear. Our viewers and listeners expect us to broadcast fair, accurate and wide-ranging programmes of news and analysis during a campaign. That is why they trust us. We strive to earn that trust.

Tony Hall is director of BBC News and Current Affairs.



Final preparations: John Major about to appear on Granada's Election 500 with Sue Lawley

ITN: 'STRAIGHT BAT'

We are trusted

During the election campaign, the British public had a real choice: ITN or the BBC. True there was a third party, Sky News, which fought a creditable campaign but failed to make the breakthrough.

The real battle was between the two big guns, a battle for which ITN and BBC television news devised different manifestos.

The most obvious differences were the durations of *News at Ten* and the *Nine O'Clock News*. We kept our flagship to more or less its usual length. The BBC extended theirs to about 50 minutes and by the second week of the campaign the viewing public had made the choice. *News at Ten* moved into the lead in the ratings.

The BBC and ITN have a healthy competitive relationship. We keep each other on our toes. I find much to admire in their work, but I believe the length and content of the *Nine O'Clock News* and *Campaign Report* dulled the sharp cutting edge that is the lifeblood of hard news programming. Mixing news with current affairs can be a dodgy business. There are many other programmes in which to delve deeply into analysis and psephology. At their best, news programmes should weave threads of explanation and assessment into the fabric of fair-minded reporting.

At ITN, we pride ourselves on the sharpness of our news judgments and the speed with which we act on them. Most of all, we take pride in our people and their ability to make sound decisions. So we do not burden them with too many rules.

Of course, like the BBC, we produced for our staff detailed election guidelines, in-

cluding a warning that as a general principle programmes should not lead on a single poll. We added: "This is not a rigid unbreakable rule but we would have to be satisfied that the news element was very strong before seeing a poll as a lead story."

The BBC guidelines include a similar warning. A moment of truth arrived on the second Tuesday of the campaign when not one poll but three (including ITN's own) suggested Labour had, for the first time, opened a significant lead.

At ITN headquarters and BBC Television Centre, swift decisions were being taken about the story's news value. They turned out to be very different decisions. We led with the story. The BBC did not and their decision is entirely a matter for them. At ITN, our built-in flexibility on the matter of polls led to debate within the newsroom, which in turn led us to the real story behind the pollsters' findings.

So that night on *News at Ten* we did not simply lead on opinion polls — interesting though they were. We were able to reveal a sea change in Tory tactics.

"Tomorrow," Michael Brunson, our political editor, told viewers, "you will see the Conservatives turn their guns against the Liberal Democrats." That was the real story: a pivotal moment and I believe, the right lead.

So was our decision to cling to news values made at the cost of under-reporting the issues? Not a bit of it. Taxation, the wider economy, health, education, proportional representation, the issue of peace on the streets in Northern Ireland and particularly Scotland's future had full and thorough airings on our programmes because

they were making news. Our lunchtime news even had a phone-in, enabling viewers to put the issues they cared about directly to the politicians. Yet we certainly did not see it as our job to be electronic manifestos for the parties. Yes, some issues struggled to make it. Why? Because the politicians failed to say anything remotely new about them.

It is worth underlining that ITN's news programmes on TV were by no means the totality of ITN's election coverage. Acres of networked current affairs space, notably *Walden* and the *Granada 500*, were turned over, rightly, to detailed examination of the issues. Acres more on ITN's regional programming homed in on policies affecting people within their transmission areas. Channel 4 News (produced by ITN) was brilliantly innovative and the *Midnight Special* on Channel 4 (again produced by ITN) was perhaps the nearest television has ever got to the rough and tumble of the hustings.

Our job in the important but comparatively narrow area of networked, mainstream news programming was to keep a tight hold on news values, to see off the spin doctors, to be fair and balanced but critical, quizzical and robust when necessary. Did we get complaints from the parties? Yes a few — some reasonable, some not. We graciously acknowledged the former and summarily dispatched the latter. Were their attempts to manipulate us? Yes, though most of them were lacking in subtlety there was little sport to be had in trying to spot them coming.

David Mannion is editor of ITN programmes at ITN

AUDIENCE RESEARCH

Switched off

Industry viewing figures, available for the first two weeks of the campaign, only partially confirm the theory that people reach for the remote control at the sight of politicians on the box.

As table 1 shows, evasive action consisted of turning off rather than over. On average we watched significantly less television in the first two weeks of the campaign compared to the two equivalent weeks of the previous month: down by one hour 13 minutes in week one and an even more substantial one hour 29 minutes in week two. Like all ratings figures, these should be treated carefully.

Table 2 gives the average weekly ratings for BBC and ITN evening bulletins. Again comparing figures with the equivalent weeks in February, there was a substantial decline which affected the late rather than early news bulletins.

Even these steep declines need to be seen in the context of individual programmes. Thus, part of the BBC's decline in the second campaign week is explained by *Porridge* (rating 8 million) following the news on the Thursday, compared to *Casualty* (rating 15.8 million) the month before. The respective news ratings were 7.1 million and 8.9 million.

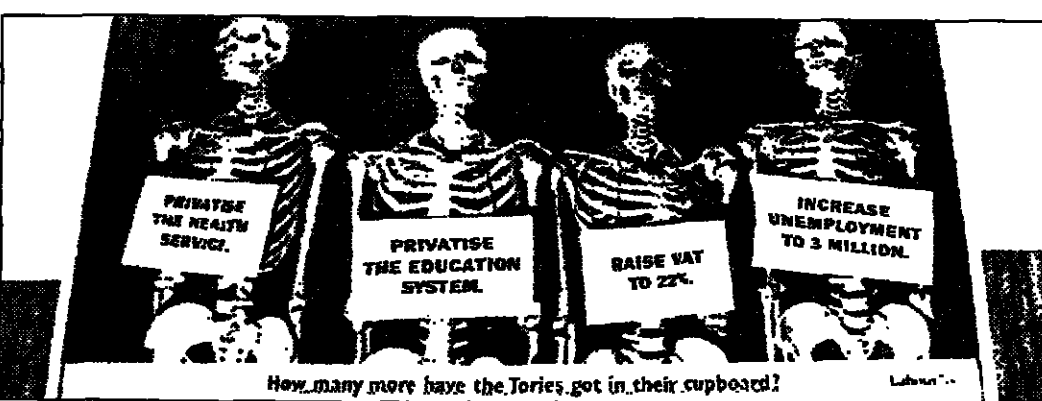
STEVEN BARNETT

WHO WATCHED WHAT AND WHEN

| Table 1. Switching off | | |
|------------------------|--------|--------|
| | Week 1 | Week 2 |
| Campaign | 27:28 | 27:30 |
| Equivalent Feb week | 28:41 | 28:59 |
| Difference | -1:13 | -1:29 |

| Table 2. News ratings | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| | ITN late | BBC late |
| Week 1 | 6:32 | 6:38 |
| Campaign | 6:32 | 6:86 |
| Equivalent Feb week | -1m | -500,000 |
| Difference | | |

| Table 3. % hour ratings for BBC extended bulletins | | |
|--|-----|-----------|
| | 9pm | 9.15-9.30 |
| Week 1 | 6.0 | 6.0 |
| Campaign | 5.3 | 5.2 |
| Equivalent Feb week | 8.1 | 7.7 |
| Difference | 6.6 | 6.2 |
| | 5.4 | 5.2 |
| | 7.0 | 6.8 |



Labouring on: one of the posters for the party that dared not mention socialism

MARKETING

Branded for defeat

That all three of our major parties have double brand names is a quirk of history. In the right corner we have the Tory/Conservatives; in the left the Labour/Socialists; and between as ever are the Liberal Democrats.

Nobody denies that brand names are among the most effective weapons in modern marketing warfare. And in the bitter battle of the ballot box, there could be little doubt that the right has the better brand names.

On the left, neither name is exactly a humdrum. The appalling regimes that once wielded power on the other side of the Wall have sullied the word socialist, perhaps irredeemably, as a brand name. Socialism is probably beyond salvation.

But Labour is little better. As long ago as 1960, psephologists Richard Rose and Mark Abrams published *Must Labour Lose*, in which they prophesied that better educated, more affluent and increasingly middle-class voters would not relish being described as "labourers".

Long before the word yuppie existed, Rose and Abrams foresaw a country full of upwardly mobile managers, who might well boast

of how hard they toiled but would not dream of calling themselves labourers.

Labour is a state in which women find themselves while giving birth: it most certainly is not what BMW drivers do in their executive suites.

Nor is Liberal Democrat a brand name to conjure with. Democrat is fine, with its modish American overtones, but Liberal is still encumbered with the imagery of sandals, earth mothers, morris dancing, unkempt beards (rather than designer stubble), and shambolic if kindly folk who could not run the proverbial booze up in the proverbial brewery.

In contrast, both Tory and Conservative are rather good brand names. Nobody quite knows what the word Tory means but it sounds posh, like Benson & Hedges, or Bendick's Minis.

Conservative no longer has much to do with conserving things; but in so far as it does, conservation and recycling are now utterly trendy.

Just as we all have a mental picture of the Marlboro man and the Sainsbury shopper, so we all have a vision of the typical Tory, Labour or Liberal supporter. Dur-

ing the election campaign all three parties tried to woo extra votes.

Ashtown's Lib Dems wanted to be seen as young, trusting and dynamic; Kinnock wanted Labour to be seen as marketing led and efficient; Major wanted the Tories to be seen as classless egalitarians. It is doubtful whether any of them succeeded, which is perhaps why final voting percentages varies so little from those of 1987.

Businessmen know that brand images are almost immutable and almost indestructible. That is why they are willing to pay tidy sums for them, and it why many accountants believe their value should be included, like other assets, in companies' balance sheets.

If anybody offers you the word "Harpic" or "Horlicks" or "Hovis" at a bargain price, snap it up: you will be able to sell it for a king's ransom. But if anybody offers you Labour or Liberal Democrat, think twice before splitting open the champagne. On present evidence, they are not worth loadsamoney.

WINSTON FLETCHER
The author is head of the Delaney, Fletcher, Slaymaker, Delaney and Boszell advertising agency.

THE PRESS

Did The Sun win votes?

Newspapers don't win elections and millions of readers ignore their advice on how to vote. Although 45 per cent of *Sun* readers voted Tory, according to Mori, 50 per cent voted for Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

Mori research during the 1992 election nevertheless supports academic research suggesting that the three main Tory tabloids may "convert" up to 2 per cent of the electorate, enough to win 20 marginal seats.

According to 22,700 newspaper readers asked about their voting intentions during the campaign, there was a sharp swing to the Tories in the last four days as *The Sun*, the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Express* launched a front page blitz against Neil Kinnock.

If that swing was induced by the tabloids *The Sun* could be right: it did help to swing a few hundred crucial votes.

Among Labour's main target seats were Basildon, Slough and Hayes and Harlington, where *The*



The Sun: 'don't trust Kinnock'

Sun is read in nearly one in two homes, and which were won by narrow majorities by the Tories. According to Mori, there was a 4 per cent swing to the Tories among *Sun* readers in the last four days of the campaign. Assuming their votes were influenced by what they read in their paper, the *Sun* effect alone was sufficient to win the seat or to make a significant impact.

The Tory majority in Hayes, for instance, was 53. If Mori is correct, some 730 *Sun* readers in Hayes switched to the Tories in the four days before they voted, swinging the *Sun* Tory vote from 7,500 to 8,230.

BRIAN MACARTHUR

THE TABLOID EFFECT

| | SUN | | | MAIL | | | EXPRESS | | |
|---------|-------|-------|----|-------|-------|----|---------|-------|------|
| | Apr 3 | Apr 8 | % | Apr 3 | Apr 8 | % | Apr 3 | Apr 8 | % |
| Cons | 41 | 45 | 4 | 62 | 65 | 3 | 64 | 67 | 3.5 |
| Lab | 40 | 36 | -4 | 16 | 15 | -2 | 19 | 15 | -3.5 |
| Lib/Dem | 16 | 14 | -2 | 18 | 18 | 0 | 14 | 14 | 0 |

Source: MORI

THE SUN EFFECT

| | Sun readership % | Con majority | Sun effect |
|----------|------------------|--------------|------------|
| Basildon | 50.5 | 1480 | 1080 |
| Slough | 48 | 514 | 1104 |
| Hayes | 47 | 53 | 732 |

Sources: CNN Marketing, MORI

The knowledge and the tact

Tourist guides should represent the best of British history to visitors. They also need stamina, as Robin Mead reports

An American couple who barged into St George's Chapel at Windsor during a Garter ceremony 20 years ago and dismissed 1,000 years of history and tradition with the words, "Gee, it's just another lump of old castle", probably changed the face of British tourism.

Professional tourist guides date their "professional" tag from that possibly apocryphal event - even though the Guild of Guide Lecturers, which celebrated its 40th birthday in 1990, might disagree. What is certain is that the job of guiding 18 million foreign visitors a year, plus countless Britons around the UK, has changed immensely over the past 20 years.

"We tourist guides are the live theatre of tourism," says Rosalind Hutchinson, a former Guild chairman now in charge of education and training. "Our job is to whet the appetite of visitors, so that they want to see and learn more."

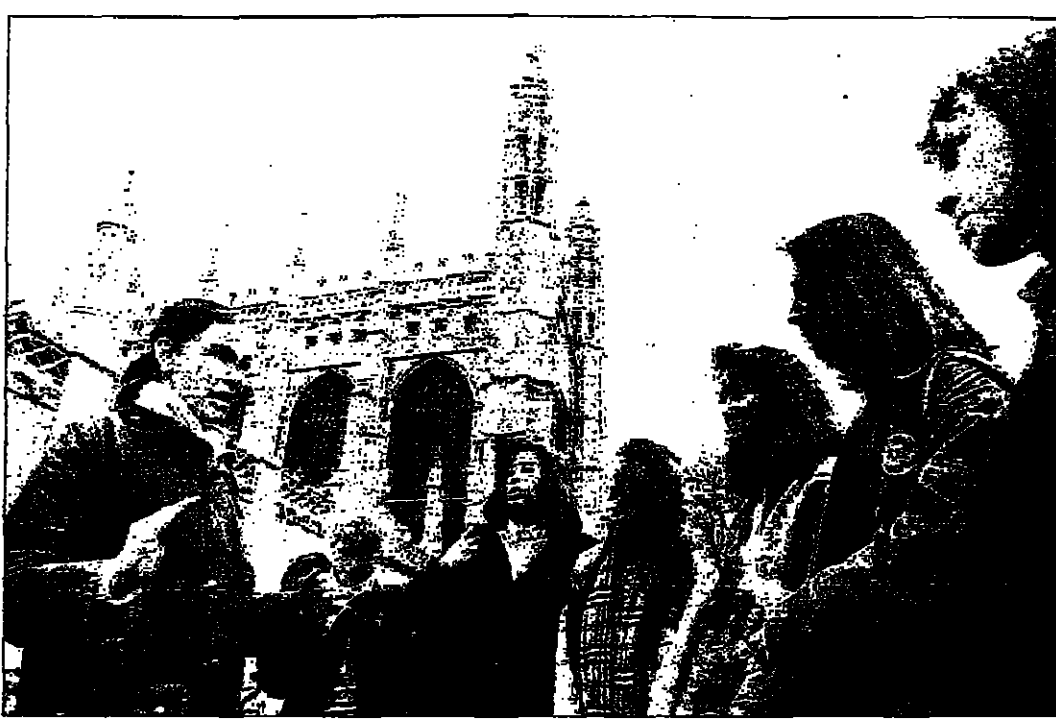
But, she says: "It is physically very demanding. You need plenty of stamina. You also need a high standard of education, and up to two years of training to become a

fully qualified "blue badge" guide. However, educational qualifications do not have to be formal: a tourist guide is often streetwise, rather than book-wise.

There are more than 1,000 qualified guides in London alone, and at least as many again in provincial cities and country areas. Selection and training is organised through Britain's national and regional tourist boards, who award the coveted "blue badge" status. Guild membership is open only to qualified, practicing guides.

One drawback is that tourist guides are self-employed and work is often seasonal, so training officers emphasise the importance of complementary skills such as foreign languages. "If you speak only English, you are going to need a second string to your bow," Katrina Prince, of the Guild, says. "In London, with languages, you can expect to be pretty busy between Easter and autumn. And if you speak Japanese, you have got a career."

The job can be well-paid: London guides earn a basic £92 a day, and there are opportunities to add to that. But pay is lower and work scarcer outside



Rosemary Morris of Cambridge: "My job is not just giving information, but engaging minds"

London, the job is highly competitive, and there are always "pirates" ready to guide visitors around the Houses of Parliament and up the garden path.

Only one person in five who applies for training as a blue badge guide actually sports the badge. Tourist boards set pre-entry general knowledge examina-

tions, emphasising cultural and constitutional aspects of Britain, and candidates must also pass an interview aimed at assessing their personality. They then start many months of evening and weekend training, including practical work, for which they must pay between £100 and £1,000. There is a practical test to pass and a trial

tour on which the "tourists" are other guides.

Rosemary Morris was a research fellow studying medieval literature at Cambridge University when the academic life began to pall, so she started a new career as a tourist guide in Cambridge. "I chose Cambridge because it is a city I know well, and because

there is plenty of work," she says. "I speak fluent French, Spanish, Italian and German, and I do translation work as well as guiding tour groups around the colleges."

The toughest tour she experienced was a coach of French schoolchildren who were bored by the Chapel of King's College. However, at the end of the tour, one child came up to her, eyes aglow, and said, simply: "Superbet." "At least, I got through to one person," she says. "That's what my job is: not just giving out information, but engaging minds."

Ms Hutchinson says: "Candidates come from every type of background, but we find that more mature entrants are better at dealing with the public."

Ms Prince puts the ideal age for a guide at between 25 and 45, and points to the tempting prospect of becoming a specialist guide to a museum or leading extended coach tours. Either will provide a comfortable safety net for freelancers.

● Contact local tourist boards for training courses. For London: Peter Matthews, London Tourist Board, 26 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1W 0ET. The closing date for entrants this year is June 15. Guild of Guide Lecturers, 2 Bridge Street, London SW1A 2JR (071-839 7438).



Two fair chances

DIRECTIONS Week '92, which is supported by The Times and The Sunday Times, combines two careers fairs this year from June 30 to July 4 at the Business Design Centre, Islington, north London.

The London Graduate Recruitment Fair, from June 30 to July 2, is organised by London University's careers advisory service. With more than 100 exhibitors already booked, a European pavilion will make an additional attraction.

The Schools' Fair, on July 3 and 4, is for school-leavers going into higher education or employment. It will provide counselling covering degree choice, university and vocational training programmes. All students will be able to meet business and college representatives.

● Hotline: Schools' Fair (071-782 6872); London Graduate Recruitment Fair (0800 252183).

071-481 4481

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

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COLLEGE ACCOUNTANT

Management Scale B - £19,461 to £21,726

To be responsible for the planning and co-ordination of the financial affairs of the College and the provision of professional financial advice to the Principal and Senior Management Team.

PERSONNEL OFFICER

Management Scale A - £17,040 to £18,900

To be responsible for the management of the College's Personnel service, and for professional advice to support the Principal and Governors in all aspects of Personnel Management.

MARKETING MANAGER

Senior Officer - £14,160 to £15,549

To develop efficient and effective marketing strategies to ensure the realisation of the College's aspirations in terms of student and staff recruitment, and the marketing of the College's courses and products.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION OFFICER

Part-time Fixed Contract Post - £9,516 to £10,215 Pro rata

To develop and enhance the College's programme of collaboration, student and staff exchanges and exhibitions involving our international partners in Belgium, Holland, Germany, Sweden, France and Hungary.

Starting salary is determined by qualifications and experience of appointed person.

Full details of the above posts, application forms, and information

about the College are available from:

Tony Marshall, Principal

Bournemouth & Poole College of Art and Design

Wallisdown Road, Poole, Dorset BH12 5NH.

Tel: (0202) 533011 Ext. 425.

Closing date for application is 30 April 1992.

For appointments as soon as possible in negotiation with appointee.

WE MEAN BUSINESS

To Work For Us, So Will You...

In hostile trading conditions, the support of a professional, quality-driven enterprise service is vital if local firms are to survive and prosper.

The West London Training and Enterprise Council is developing a raft of innovative business development and enterprise packages to provide local businesses with the support they need now and the support they will need to accelerate out of recession once the upturn comes.

We need four highly-motivated people to help us fine tune and deliver these targeted packages.

GROWTH PROGRAMME MANAGER C. £25K

Identifying the 500 key firms in the area with the greatest growth potential and equipping them with the enterprise and business support initiatives they need to pull the rest of the economy along in their wake will be your primary objective.

These measures will include: helping firms profit from the Single Market; running a Green Business Programme to help companies adapt to the new Green consumerism, and improving access to venture funds or other sources of finance.

Introducing quality monitoring and evaluation for services to growing and medium-sized firms will be central to your role. You will manage two staff and external consultants, as appropriate. Knowledge of business financing, environmental issues, the Single Market and strategies for removing barriers to growth is vital, as are staff management skills. Ref no. GPM1.

SMALL BUSINESS MANAGER C. £20K

You will manage the TEC's £1.2 million small and start-up business budget and develop/teach successful initiatives such as our telephone Business Helpline and New Business Opportunities programme (an upgraded successor to the Enterprise Allowance Scheme).

As well as evaluating and improving these services, you will introduce new ones such as adding an environmental programme to the TEC's range of Business Skills Seminars and helping to develop & launch a Good Recruitment Practice Guide for small businesses.

Additional responsibilities include: the TEC's strategy for developing & promoting employer childcare projects and the development of a quality initiative for the TEC contractors providing services to small and start-up businesses.

To apply, you'll need experience in controlling a substantial budget and in managing a team as well as extensive knowledge of the needs of the small business sector. Ref no. SSM1.

ENTERPRISE ADVISER (small businesses) up to £16K

You'll work with our local contractors to ensure the small business services they provide meet our quality control standards, which you will introduce, and match local business need.

You'll help your team build a solid network of small business support, through working with Local Enterprise Agencies and others.

Targets for take-up and quality for our Business Skills Seminars will be your responsibility, as will helping to introduce at least one major childcare-related employer project in your first year.

Experience of working on enterprise issues or with small companies, negotiating skills, initiative and reliability under pressure are vital for this post. Ref no. EAT1.

TEAM ADMINISTRATOR C. £13K

You will be responsible for the smooth running of the enterprise team dealing with medium to large companies, providing support to three staff.

You will provide a friendly and efficient inquiry service for customers contacting the team; take notes at meetings and occasionally accompany team members on company visits.

Efficient office management skills are essential, including monitoring the team's expenditure against budget and running filing systems on a PC.

You'll need sound organisational skills, the initiative to handle projects, as directed, and secretarial skills including good copy typing. Ref no. TMA1.

All postholders will need strong communications and inter-personal skills and the ability to adapt to changing work priorities to keep up with the needs of local businesses.

The West London TEC welcomes applications from both men and women, members of ethnic groups and people with disabilities.

Application forms from: Dr Phil Blackburn, Chief Executive, West London TEC, Ealing

Sovereign Court, 15-21 Staines Rd, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 3HA

or tel: 081 814 3235, quoting appropriate reference no.

Applications to arrive no later than 24 April 1992.

WEST LONDON TRAINING & ENTERPRISE COUNCIL
SOVEREIGN COURT • 15-21 STAINES ROAD • HOUNSLOW TW3 3HA
TEL: 081 577 9118 FAX: 081 579 9959

ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL WINDSOR CASTLE

SURVEYOR OF THE FABRIC

The Dean and Canons of Windsor seek to appoint a Surveyor of the Fabric for St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle. Applicants should be qualified architects with experience of the care and conservation of ancient buildings.

Details of the post may be obtained from: The Chapter Clerk, The Chapter Office, The Cloisters, Windsor Castle, Berkshire SL4 1NJ to whom letters of application with c.v. and the names of three referees should be sent by 1 May, 1992.

CHARITY SECRETARIES

Salary range £17,500 to £24,500 Hertfordshire

Applications are invited for two senior administrative appointments, as the Secretaries of the internationally recognised, scientific and technical, registered charities:

Universities Federation for
Animal Welfare
Council of Justice to Animals and
Humane Slaughter Association

Each Secretary is individually responsible to the governing Council/Trustees for the day to day administration and financial management of their own Society. Together they operate as a secretariat and handle the editorial work on a wide range of publications for both charities.

The appointments will carry salaries appropriate to age and experience and be based on Civil Service pay scales.

Closing date for applications: 29th April 1992.

Applications by hand written letter and full, typed curriculum vitae should be submitted under 'Personal - Confidential' cover to: The Director, UFAW/CIAS/HSA, 8 Hamilton Close, South Mimms, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3QD.

PRACTISE MANAGER GP EALING

19 hpw, business degree, management, wp skills as essential as a sense of humour.

TEL:
081 566 7422

LINCOLN COLLEGE OXFORD CHAPLAINCY

The College invites applications from graduates in priestly orders of the Church of England for the post of Chaplain. It is hoped that the successful candidate will take up office on 1 October 1992 and not later than 1 January 1993. Some preference will be given to candidates who are academically qualified to hold a Junior Research Fellowship of the College. Candidates should be under the age of 35 on 1 October 1992. Further particulars can be obtained from the Rector, Lincoln College, Oxford, OX1 3DR, to whom applications should be submitted by 22 May 1992.

ROYAL TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICER

Part-time, home based professional appointment

The Institute plays a leading role in the European Council of Town Planners, International Federation for Housing and Planning and Commonwealth Association of Planners, has bi-lateral links with other institutes, particularly in Eastern Europe and has over a thousand members overseas.

Reporting directly to the Secretary General the International Affairs Officer will develop and co-ordinate these activities as an integrated programme through the establishment and maintenance of active networks and databases.

Self-starter required with relevant professional background, fluent in French or German and with good word processing skills.

Working arrangements flexible and subject to negotiation; three day week anticipated; provision of fax and PC for home working; occasional visits to Brussels and The Hague likely. Salary circa £12,000 according to experience.

Full job description and application form from:

Mike Mahoney
Establishment Officer
The Royal Town Planning Institute
26 Portland Place, London W1N 4BE.
Telephone: 071-636-9107

Closing date: 28th April 1992.

ASSISTANT MANAGEMENT SERVICES OFFICER

Starting Salary circa £16,000

The Legal Aid Board administers and controls the fund which exists to ensure that no-one is denied legal advice, assistance and representation simply for lack of means. Major changes are taking place at the Board to improve the quality of service we provide.

We are looking for an Assistant Management Services Officer to join a small team in the Computer and Communications Department. You will provide assistance on procedural investigations, work measurement exercises, forms design and acceptance testing of new computer systems. The position is based in London although there would be a need to periodically travel to our area offices located throughout England and Wales.

This is a challenging role calling for good communication skills, oral and written, numerical aptitude and a logical and methodical approach to work. A team player, you should be able to work well under pressure and have the ability to liaise effectively with people at all levels. A knowledge of forms design and investigative techniques would be an advantage as would a measure of computer literacy.

If you are interested in taking up this challenge, please send a CV with a covering letter demonstrating your personal achievements to Personnel & Training Department, Legal Aid Board, Greencroft House, 12 Roger Street, London WC1N 2JL quoting reference LAB21. Applications to be received by April 24th 1992.

THE TIMES

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45 Market Square
WITNEY OX12 5AL

BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax (49066) 6.30 Breakfast News (21404795)
9.05 Defenders of the Earth (r) (Ceefax (9852443) 9.25 Why Don't You...? Entertaining ideas for young people at a loose end (s) (2435882)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (4431153) 10.05 Playdays (r) (5592795) 10.25 The Family Ness (r) (4434240) 10.35 The Singing Kettle (3624337) 10.45 Beethoven's Ninth (5592795) 10.55 Jagan's Secret (r) (8637462)
11.00 News, regional news and weather (3786882) 11.05 Help Yourself. In the last of the series Pam Rhodes investigates psychotherapy (8637882) 11.30 People Today. Includes News, regional news and weather at 12.00 (8309733)
12.20 Pebble Mill. Music and chat introduced by Judi Spiers (s) (8337443)
12.55 Regional News and weather (13541917)
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather (28288)
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (6491880) 1.50 Turnabout. Rob Curling with another round of the word power quiz (6492917)
2.15 Film: Tea for Two (1950) starring Doris Day, Gordon MacRae and Gene Nelson. Sentimental musical about a waitress who must accept an eccentric challenge before she can put on the Broadway show she dreams of. Directed by David Butler (606248)
3.50 Just So Stories. Geoffrey Matthews narrates Rudyard Kipling's *How the Camel Got Its Hump* (2203627) 4.00 Chucklevision (r) (s) (2623153) 4.20 Happy Families. Part one of Mr Tck the Teacher (9281004) 4.35 Pirates of Dark Water. (Ceefax) (8958530)
5.00 Newsround (8337627) 5.05 The Lowdown: The Exam. A documentary following the fortunes of five boys from the Hall preparatory school in Hampshire, north London, as they prepare for their Common Entrance Exam and a place in a leading public school. (Ceefax) (8197849)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (398172) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. (Ceefax) Weather (801)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (936) Northern Ireland: Neighbours



Fetishes and jests: Noel Edmonds, Willie Rushton (7.00pm)

- 7.00 Noel's. **CHOICE:** "I am going to introduce you," declares Noel Edmonds, to a man who is 300 snakes in his house and the wife of a vicar who is a knicker addict. "No, this is not a parody but a new show in which Noel presides over people's obsessions. The vicar's wife duly appears, offering highlights from her collection including knickers attributed to Queen Victoria ("these have sat upon the English throne"). Commentator Brian Johnston's fetish is not underwear but Neighbours, the cue for a call to the cast in Australia and a telephone link-up with a fellow-fan, I. P. Gentry. The half hour is quickly filled, helped along by a witty interlude from Willie Rushton. You feel it will not be long before the show turns up someone whose home is filled with plaster effigies of Noel Edmonds, complete with self-satisfied smirk. (Ceefax) (s) (9627)
7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (337)
8.00 Lifesense. A series about human life as seen through animals' eyes. (Ceefax) (3375)
8.30 A Question of Sport. Ian Botham returns and is joined by Will Carling and Adrian Moorhouse. Bill Beaumont captains Peter Elliott and Bryan Robson. (Ceefax) (s) (7882)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martin Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (7004)
9.30 Resnick's Lonely Hearts. The third and final episode of the drama serial starring Tom Wilkinson as an unconventional police detective on the trail of a lonely hearts killer. (Ceefax) (s) (615511)
10.25 Film 92 with Barry Norman. Includes reviews of *The Inner Circle* and *Voyager* (s) (766240)
10.55 Sportsround. Highlights of the Cup semi-final between Hearts and Airdrie (183882)
11.35 Holy Week: The Gospels. The Sermon on the Mount (376608)
11.50 Private Eye. American police drama series set in 1956 Los Angeles (874917) 12.00 Weather (4706575)

BBC2

- 8.00 Breakfast News (6860801)
8.15 Raging the Tide. A look at the one-day horse race meeting held on the beach at Laytown Strand, 30 miles north of Dublin (r) (5743269)
9.00 Film: Tarzan and the Amazons (1945, b/w) starring Johnny Weissmuller and Johnny Sheffield. The jungle hero comes to the aid of an Amazon tribe of females threatened by curious explorers. Directed by Kurt Neumann (371462)
10.15 Film: A Time in Trinidad (1952, b/w) starring Rita Hayworth and Glenn Ford. When a café owner is brutally murdered in Trinidad his widow and his brother join forces to find the killer. Directed by Vincent Sherman (2577085)
11.50 Me and My Bike. An affectionate look at a love affair with a bike (r) (785530)
12.30 Last Stand in Eden. A National Geographic film about East Africa's endangered elephants (7711004) 1.20 Mr Benn. Animation (r) (8372782)
1.35 Bellamy's Seaside Safari. A miniaturist David Bellamy explores the sea around a lighthouse (r) (8319819)
2.00 News and weather (3093317) 2.30 See Hear Magazine for the hearing impaired (r) (714)
3.00 News and weather (2906097) followed by *The High Chaparral*. Classic western series (r) (3801337) 3.30 News, regional news and weather (2201269)
4.00 Rugby Special Extra. Highlights from the Hong Kong Bank/Cathay Pacific sevens tournament. The commentator is Nigel Stanner-Smith (s) (6747559)
4.40 A Gift From the Gods. The history and uses of garlic (7264578)
5.30 Gardeners' World. Includes a visit to a garden in Tenbury Wells (r) (830)
6.00 Film: The Charge at Feather River (1953) starring Guy Madison and Frank Lovejoy. Western adventure, originally screened in 3-D, about a group of men on a dangerous mission to free two women captured by the Cheyenne. Directed by Gordon Douglas (7715511)
7.40 Soul: The Evolving Soul. The second of three films exploring new thinking in concert with evolution as presented by Anthony Clare. This programme looks at the work that refutes the long-held belief that science is as predictable as clockwork. (Ceefax) (884207)
8.30 KYTV. Satirical comedy series set in a satellite television station. Starring Angus Deayton, Helen Atkinson Wood and Geoffrey Perkins (s) (64244)
9.00 Quantum Leap. Unusual science fiction drama series starring Scott Bakula as a time-trapped scientist. In this episode he is transported back to Vietnam at the height of the war. (Ceefax) (s) (870085)



Romance in an old people's home: Jim and Mary (9.50pm)

- 9.50 40 Minutes: Not at Their Age. **CHOICE:** The encouraging premise of Philippa Lowthorpe's film is that it is never too old to fall in love. Her prize example is of Jim and Mary who met in an old people's home. He is 87 and she is 91. Part of their courting was to have an afternoon nap together on his bed. The assistant nation was appalled. Jim let her know that he thought Lowthorpe was together with this and four other stories of couples who have found love at the senior citizen stage, often in unlikely circumstances. A story straight out of a novel comes Feliks and Dorothy. They met during the second world war when he was a Polish refugee and she a nurse. They split up, lost touch for 40 years and have fallen for each other all over again. An advice line will be open after the programme (081-679 5110) but these couples, at 2.50, seem far too young to need it. (Ceefax) (895359)
10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow (828443)
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine (s) (512168)
11.55 Weather (642288)
12.00 Open University: Open Forum (68318). Ends at 12.30am

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (8978172)
9.25 Cross Words. Crossword quiz game presented by Tom O'Connor (8516839) 9.55 Thames News (940462)
10.00 Out of This World. Adventures of a young girl with a human mother and an alien father (s) (2789725) 10.25 Just for the Record. Australian series about bizarre record-breaking exploits (s) (5596511) 10.50 News headlines (8830559)
10.55 Teenagers Island in Outer Space. Episode two of a seven-part science fiction adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic, starring Anthony Quinn and Ernest Borgnine (r) (206424) 11.50 Thames News headlines (4336569)
11.55 Cartoon featuring Porky Pig (r) (7851443) 12.10 Playbox. Pre-school learning series, introduced by Keith Chegwin and Pat Coombes (r) (833407)
12.30 Lunchtime News (Oracle) Weather (8040153) 1.10 Thames News (24467004)
1.20 Home and Away. (Oracle) (14055248) 1.50 A Country Practice (s) (88548672)
2.20 Halfmoon John. Bly and guest expert Harry Kay value things brought in by the studio audience (8991801) 2.50 Families (s) (8114733)
3.15 ITN News headlines (8628294) 3.30 Thames News headlines (77707) 3.25 The Young Doctors (1163227)
3.55 Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends. Animated stories (r) (83232) 4.10 Tales from the Pong Pong. Comedy adventure series starring Helen Atkinson Wood, Charles Gray and Dudley Sutton. The narrator is Griff Rhys Jones (Oracle) (s) (2630065) 4.35 Disney's Duck Tales (895086) 5.00 Cartoons (r) (7283820)
5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz (8181288)
5.40 Evening News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather (206649)
5.55 Thames Help. Rock climbing for youngsters (r) (877530)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Oracle) (288)
6.30 Thames News. (Oracle) (849)
7.00 Emmerdale. Topical soap set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle) (4735)
7.30 Survival: Saving the Spoonbill. Brian Redhead narrates the documentary about Dutch conservationists' efforts to preserve the threatened bird (r) (733)
8.00 The Bill: Trials and Tribulations. Someone who wants to frighten WPC Gail Marshall arranges for her flat to be wrecked and her car stolen (s) (3445)
8.30 The Beauty and the Beast. A compilation of clips from the master of inuendo's comedy sketches (s) (2578)
9.00 Medics. Hospital drama series starring Tom Baker and Sue Johnston. (Oracle) (1796)

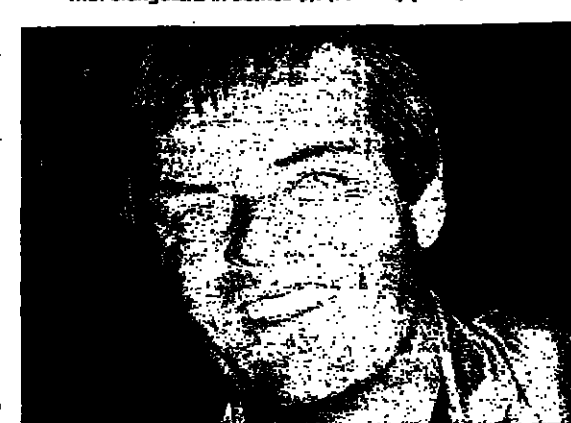


A suitable case for adoption: children in care (10.40pm)

- 10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Stewart and Trevor McDonald. (Oracle) Weather (87153) 10.30 Thames News (33117)
10.40 Adoption - All For the Sake of the Children. **CHOICE:** A drama documentary mixing actors with professional social workers explores the process by which couples are assessed for their suitability as adoptive parents. The fictional but true-to-life scenario features two children, eight and six, of a dead mother and a father with no regular job or home. The kids are in care and the social worker proposes adoption. A couple unable to have children of their own emerge as potential candidates. The film points out that most children who come up for adoption are from disturbed backgrounds. Many are physically and emotionally damaged and likely to be difficult. This makes it all the more important that the youngsters are placed in a caring environment. The programme also deals with the rights of natural parents to maintain contact with their offspring (878320)
11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H. Australian behind bars drama (863801)
12.30am Video View presented by Mariella Frostrup (84221)
1.30 The Equalizer. McCall is hired by a mother whose son was killed by a citizens' patrol. Starring Edward Woodward (79467)
2.30 Detective. American chat show (4538683) 3.20 Nine Mile (77455134) 3.30 60 Minutes (82577)
4.30 Entertainment UK. Leisure time guide (23776)
5.30 ITN Morning News (56573). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Channel 4 Daily (8974714)
9.25 The Monitors (b/w). Classic ghoulie comedy (r) (4507240)
9.55 The Road to Avonlea. Children's drama series (r) (5691085)
10.55 Fine Feathers. Animation (8620172)
11.00 Gamesmaster. Video games series (r) (1511882)
11.35 Get Smart. Spoof spy series starring Don Adams (2965356)
12.00 Meah's Rats. A Spanish documentary on flamings (r) (37676)
12.30 Business Daily (59207) 1.00 Sesame Street (r) (47462)
2.00 The Train. A rail journey through Sweden (5995627)
2.25 Channel 4 Racing from Newmarket. Brought Scott introduces live coverage of the 2.35, 3.10 (Shadwell Stud Nell Gwynn Stakes); 3.40 and 4.10 races (7304005)
4.30 Fifteen to One. Fast moving general knowledge quiz (s) (5640)
5.00 It's a Dog's Life. Mike Fuller examines hunting dogs (r) (8481)
5.30 Best. Challenges tackled by disabled and able-bodied youngsters (r) (958)
6.00 Treasure Hunt. Annabel Croft is in west Berkshire (r) (34988)
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) Weather (936733) 7.50 Comment (129085)
8.00 People First: Stop the World We Want to Get On. Documentary series on disability issues. A profile of the Canadian disability rights organisation Disability Action. Includes a profile of the work with orangutans in Borneo (r). (Teletext) (2820)



Celebrity: Radio 1 disc jockey Tony Blackburn (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Without Walls: Hang the DJ (8694) and at 9.30 Real Secrets (39443). **CHOICE:** The art of Ingrid Bergman. The Radio 1 item is not a formal history but a study of four of the station's disc jockeys. Tony Blackburn, Gary Davies, Mike Read and Dave Lee Travis. Playing other people's records seems hardly the stuff that stars are made of, but DJs have enjoyed a curious celebrity. Time was when Blackburn could hardly open a supermarket without having his clothes torn off. The most thoughtful contribution comes from DLT, who fears he may among the last of the breed. In the other item Robert McKee concludes his series of movie masterclasses by analysing *Through a Glass Darkly*. His thesis is that above all else Bergman is a master story-teller. It can be tested against the film, which is being shown after this programme (s)
10.00 Film: Through a Glass Darkly (1961, b/w). The first of Ingrid Bergman's trilogy of films about man's futile search for God. Starring Max von Sydow and Harriet Andersson (439558)
11.40 Empty Nest. American comedy series (583658)
12.10am The Devil's Advocate. The Battle for Stansford School. The story of the dispute between a London school's white head teacher and the predominantly Asian governing body (4719776)
12.40 American Patchwork. Songs and stories about America (9887080)
1.55 Film: Murder by Rope (1936, b/w) starring D.A. Clarke-Smith. Low-budget thriller about a judge threatened by a man he sentenced to death - after the execution has taken place. Directed by George Pearson (8671844). Ends at 3.05

- VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode**
The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are 'Video PlusCode' numbers, which allow you to instantly programme your video recorder with a VideoPlus+ remote. VideoPlus+ can be used to record any of the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more details call VideoPlus on 0899 121204 (calls charged at 49p per minute plus 35p per call) or write to: VideoPlus, VIM Ltd, 77 Rishurst Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, GU24 0JN. PlusCode (TM) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Genstar Marketing Ltd.

SATellite

- SKY ONE**
Via the Astra and Maripolo satellites.
6.00am The DJ Kat Show (7620073) 8.40 Mrs Peppercorn (3629066) 8.55 Lamb Cakes. Play-Long (5581753) 9.30 The New Law. Let it be Better (79085) 10.00 Maudie (32917)
10.30 The Young Doctors (883733) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (40882) 12.00 Remedy Jones (69608) 1.00am E Street (53998) 1.30 Another World (888733) 2.00 Santa Barbara (5452411) 2.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (54598) 3.15 The Brady Bunch (140511) 3.45 The DJ Kat Show (7620073) 5.00 Different Strokes (7733) 5.30 Bewitched (7056) 6.00 Facts of Life (7207) 6.30 21 Street (5559) 7.00 Love at First Sight (8269) 7.30 Baby Talk (2443) 8.00 The Immigrants. Second and final part of the miniseries (134247) 11.00 J.J. Starbuck (83475) 12.00 Naked City (54202) 1.00am Pages from Skyline

SKY MOVIES+

- Via the Astra and Maripolo satellites.
6.00am Star Trek: The Motion Picture (5880004)
10.00 Two Brothers Running (1988)
Comedy starring Tom Conn (84917)
12.00 The Bill of the Mists (1958) Sex

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

- Via the Astra and Maripolo satellites.
6.00am Star Trek: The Motion Picture (5880004)
10.00 Two Brothers Running (1988)
Comedy starring Tom Conn (84917)
12.00 The Bill of the Mists (1958) Sex

THE COMEDY CHANNEL

- Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Star Trek: The Motion Picture (5880004)
10.00 Two Brothers Running (1988)
Comedy starring Tom Conn (84917)
12.00 The Bill of the Mists (1958) Sex

RADIO 1

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WORLD SERVICE

- All times in BST. 4.30am World Service. 4.40am Travel and Weather News. 4.45am World Service. 4.50am World Service. 4.55am World Service. 5.00am World Service. 5.05am World Service. 5.10am World Service. 5.15am World Service. 5.20am World Service. 5.25am World Service. 5.30am World Service. 5.35am World Service. 5.40am World Service. 5.45am World Service. 5.50am World Service. 5.55am World Service. 6.00am World Service. 6.05am World Service. 6.10am World Service. 6.15am World Service. 6.20am World Service. 6.25am World Service. 6.30am World Service. 6.35am World Service. 6.40am World Service. 6.45am World Service. 6.50am World Service. 6.55am World Service. 7.00am World Service. 7.05am World Service. 7.10am World Service. 7.15am World Service. 7.20am World Service. 7.25am World Service. 7.30am World Service. 7.35am World Service. 7.40am World Service. 7.45am World Service. 7.50am World Service. 7.55am World Service. 8.00am World Service. 8.05am World Service. 8.10am World Service. 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